

[1] How and why piping/welting is used in upholstery

Piping/welting is fabric-covered cord. The fabric is generally cut on the bias. Strips are sewn together into one long skinny piece. The cord is sewn into the fabric. It is then sewn into seams to give a rounded raised hard finish.

It helps to smarten up the edges. It makes upholstery look much more professional.

It can be used as a contrasting colour for effect (like the white piping in the picture, contrasting with the blue couch).

It also helps to give a more formal effect.

It also helps to define the shape of the object being upholstered (like the round bolster in the picture)

It is also good for helping to strengthen a seam (imagine kids jumping on a couch).

Welting is often used on cushions. They are called the 'waterfall' style cushion, as the top edge of the cushion fabric waterfalls over the edge.

Welting also helps to waterproof the seams on outdoor furniture (especially if the cord used is a plastic).

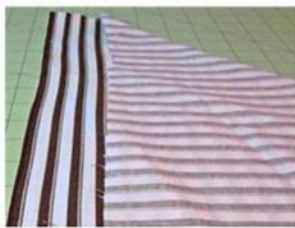


[2] How piping/welting is constructed in a textile material

For upholstery, choose a stiff cord and decide whether you want it to be cotton, polyester, plastic, foam etc and what size you want it.

Cutting the fabric on the bias (45 degree angle) allows it to stretch. Or you can use straight lines, especially if the fabric has some stretch in it. This uses less fabric.

The width of the fabric needs to be double the width of the cord plus double the seam allowance.



Fold the fabric back like in the picture. This will give a 45° angle. Press to get a crease. Cut strips to the desired width.

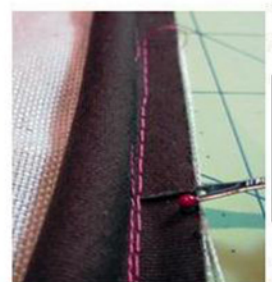
Overlap the strips like in the picture on the right. Sew down the chalk line.

Trim back the seam allowance and the tiny overlapping edges.



Place the cord in the centre of the strip.

Firmly wrap the fabric round the cord. Match the raw edges of the fabric to make a lip. Pin in place.



Sew with the cording pressed along the edge of the zipper foot.

[3] Keep an eye on cording behind—it sometimes twists. If so, roll between fingers to straighten it out.

Attach it to the right side of one piece (for example, of the cushion) that is going to be joined to another

piece (of the cushion). Baste it on (see the picture).

Place the two sides of the article (eg cushion) right sides together.

Sew around the edges again.

Turn the article right side out. The piping will pop out.

