

# Sewing Reference Cards

Directions: Print at full scale, cut on outside lines, hole punch, and attach to a keyring.  
(Laminate if you'd like extra durability.)

## Sewing Terms

### BACK STITCH

A way to secure the beginning and ending of each stitched seam. You'll backstitch 4-5 stitches when you start and stop. This will keep what you've just sewn from coming undone.

### EDGE STITCH

This is a small stitched seam sewn on the right side of the fabric, typically about 1/8" from a finished edge.

### FABRIC RIGHT/WRONG SIDES

Fabric has a right and wrong side. Look at a piece of fabric and see if you can see which side is more colorful and which side is more muted. The right side is the side that we'll see on a finished project and the wrong side will be on the inside.

### HEM

The hem is a finished single edge of fabric, usually used to finish off clothing like shirts, skirts, or PJ pants. The fabric is folded under twice to hide away the raw edges and keep it from unraveling.

### SEAM ALLOWANCE

Seam allowances are how far away from the edge you'll stitch. When you stitch a 1/2" seam allowance, you're stitching a seam 1/2" away from the edge of your fabric. Common seam allowances are 1/4", 1/2", and 5/8".

## Sewing Terms Cont.

### TOP STITCH

This type of stitch is very similar to an edge stitch but will be sewn a little farther away from a finished fabric edge. This type of stitch gives a very professional finish and is used often.

### CLIPPING

This refers to trimming away excess fabric from a sewn seam before turning right sides out or clipping notches in a seam to allow for fabric easement.

