

Topic: Types of zippers

There are two main types of zippers – **metal** and **plastic** – used in garments.

Metal Zippers

Metal zippers are divided into 2 groups, depending on the material used and the process of manufacture:

- Teeth formed from a metal wire, either flat or profiled and made from brass, aluminium, nickel or white brass (nickel-free)
- Teeth die-cast directly onto the tape, with zinc metal

Metal zippers are usually made in a variety of finishes, such as **golden brass, antique brass, antique silver, gunmetal, silver** etc. These finishes are achieved by chemical treatment of the zipper chain and matching plating of the sliders and end stops.

Plastic Zippers

Plastic zippers are divided into 5 groups:

- LFC or L-type zippers made with meander/Ruhrmann type coil, stitched around the edge of the carrier tape.
- CFC zippers made with spiral coil, stitched on one side of the carrier tape.
- Woven-in coil zippers, in which the coil is formed and directly woven into the carrier tape on special looms.
- Plastic moulded zippers, in which the teeth/elements made from polyacetal (commonly known as Delrin,) are directly moulded onto the carrier tape.
- Plastic extruded zippers, in which a string of teeth/elements is first extruded and then stitched onto the carrier tape.

Specialty Zippers

The main categories of zippers, as described above, also include speciality zippers, which have **special types of construction, or parts, or finishes**. These include:

- **Invisible zippers:** CFC zippers have a special class known as Invisible zippers due to the special construction and mode of use. These zippers do not require provision of a fly, since they are made and stitched in such a manner that only a hairline seam is visible from outside. These zips are predominantly used in ladies dresses and skirts. These zippers are available in knitted and woven tapes.
- **Two way zippers:** These zippers are made usually in #5 or larger sizes in CFC, plastic moulded and metal. The major applications are outerwear and luggage. These are made in X-type or O-type.
- **Open End zippers:** Some zipper applications require a zipper to detached completely e.g. jackets and outerwear. Instead of a fixed bottom stop, box & pin attachment is used.