Diaper, m. [Fr., diapéré, from Ypres.] (Chem.) A kind of textile fabric, either of linen or cotton, or a mixture of the two, with a figured pattern on the exterior surface, produced by a peculiar method of twilling. Di are much used for table-linen and fine towels. With the exception of damask, D are the most ornamental kind of twilled cloths. There is some controversy as to the origin of the term. According to M. Planche, it is derived from Diapres, or “Ypres,” a town in Flanders, famous for its manufacture of rich stuffs and fine linen before the year 1200. Boucage derives the word from the Italian diapere, “the jasper,” on account of its shifting light; but the former is the most probable derivation.

(Fine Arts.) Diapering, is a term used to signify the repetition of a pattern of any flowers, foliage, or geometrical form of ornamentation, over a large surface of work; it differs from cheyres, i.e., such as the latter is applied to a repetition of geometrical figures which are indicated by rectangular or diagonal lines intersecting at fixed intervals.