Properties of wool
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- **Soft** — Merino wool fibres are soft and gentle next to your skin.
- **Elastic** — wool clothes stretch with your body, yet return to their original shape.
- **Breathable and odour resistant** — wool can absorb moisture and move it away from the body leaving less sweat against your skin. This means you smell less wearing wool, making it the ideal sportswear.
- **Warm and cool** — wool reacts to changes in body temperature helping you stay warm when the weather is cold, and cool when the weather is hot.
- **Anti-static** — wool tends not to create static electricity, so it is less likely to cling to your body than other fabrics.
- **Stain resistant** — wool fibres have a natural protective outer layer that prevents stains from being absorbed.
- **Anti-wrinkle** — each wool fibre is like a coiled spring that returns to its natural shape after being bent. This gives wool garments a natural wrinkle resistance.
- **Fire resistant** — wool doesn’t melt and stick to the skin when it burns, and won’t keep burning when the source of the flame is taken away.
- **Sun-safe** — wool is better at protecting skin against UV radiation than most synthetics and cotton.
- **Healthy** — wool helps regulate your body temperature, helping you sleep better.

Did you know?

- **Wool is a natural fibre** — it is grown by sheep that live outdoors, graze (eat) pasture and drink water.
- **Wool is biodegradable** — when it is thrown out it naturally decomposes into soil in a matter of years, releasing nutrients back into the earth.
- **Wool is renewable** — every year sheep grow a new fleece, making wool a completely renewable resource.

Fun facts about wool

- Australia produces about 345 million kilograms of wool every year — about one quarter of the world’s wool.
- The earliest remains of fine wool came from Ancient Greece and dates back to the 5th century B.C.
- Soldiers, fire fighters, astronauts, athletes and mountain climbers all wear wool because of its unique properties.

Glossary

- **Merino wool** — the highest quality wool, sourced from a breed of sheep called Merino.
- **Pasture** — plants that have been grown specifically to feed animals such as sheep and cattle.

More information

To find out more about the properties of wool, take a look at:
- learnaboutwool.com
- woolmark.com/benefits-of-wool