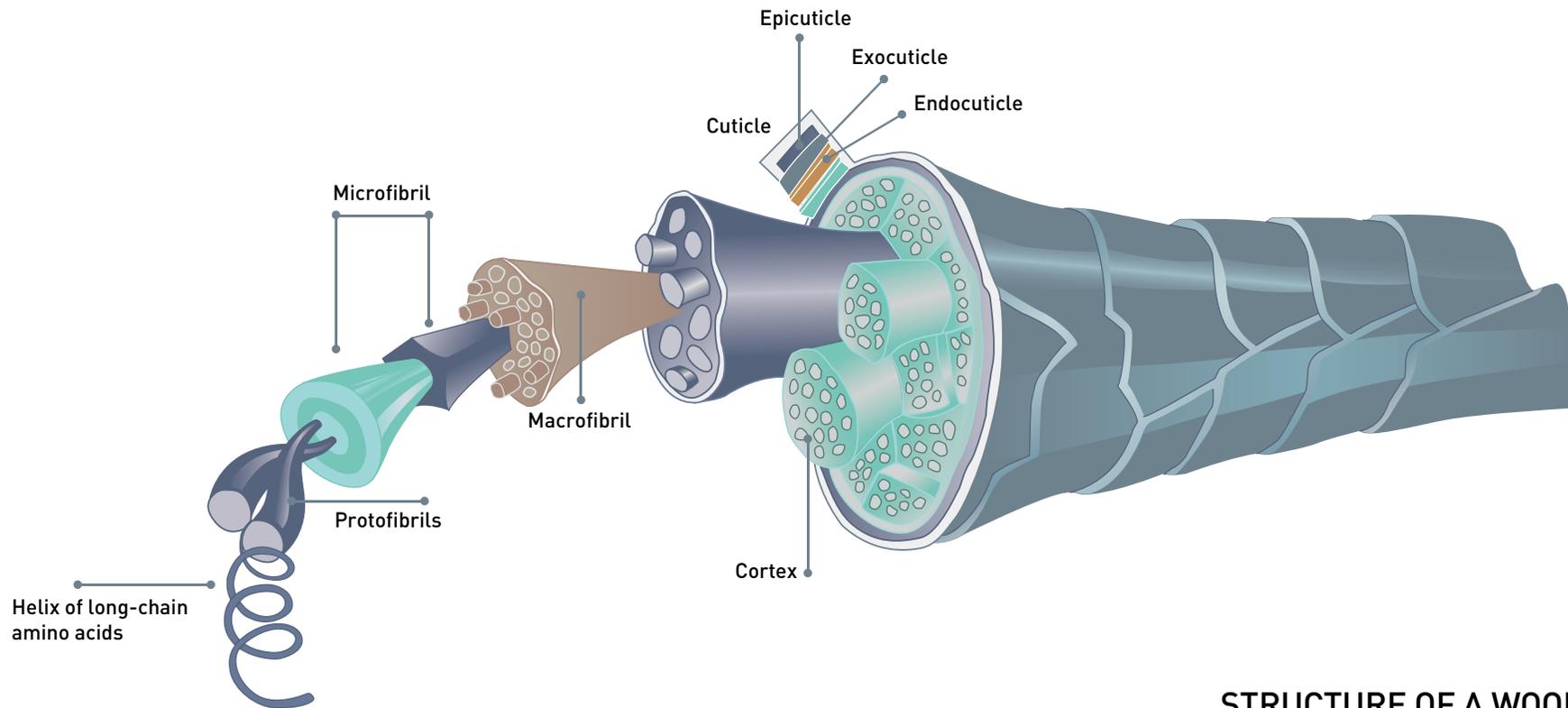
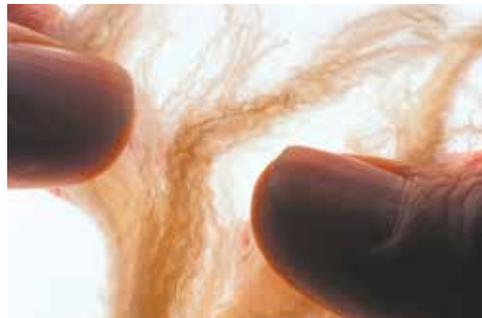
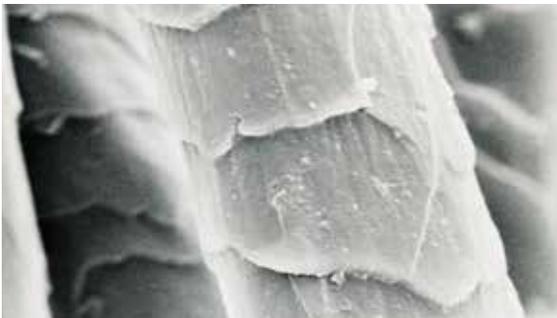


INSIDE A WOOL FIBRE



STRUCTURE OF A WOOL FIBRE



Inside a wool fibre



Not all wool is the same — it varies in colour, quality (**fibre diameter**) and length.

Fibre diameter and **staple length** are important measurements that determine the use of wool.

Diameter is measured in **microns** and fibre length is always recorded in millimetres.

Wool can be divided into three main groups based on micron: fine, medium and broad.

Fine — Merino sheep produce the finest wool, which is used for high-quality, soft fabrics and yarns by leading fashion designers.

Medium — Medium wools are used in a variety of woven apparel fabrics, knitting yarns and furnishings. Medium wools are often produced by **crossbred** sheep.

Broad — Many different sheep breeds produce broader wools and often they are **dual-purpose** breeds used to produce both meat and wool.

MERINO WOOL MICRON GRADES

Micron	Grade
14.5 and finer	Extrafine
14.6 – 16.5	Ultrafine
16.6 – 18.5	Superfine
18.6 – 20.5	Fine
20.6 – 22.5	Medium
>22.6	Broad

Did you know?

- Wool is natural, biodegradable, renewable and safe for the environment.
- Wool keeps you warm in winter and cool in summer.
- Australian Merino wool is used by fashion designers all around the world.
- Merino is a breed of sheep developed to produce lots of high-quality fine wool.
- Wool contains a natural grease called lanolin, which is used in make-up and skin products.

FUN FACTS ABOUT WOOL

- Wool fibres grow in tufts (staples) on the sheep's back with crimps (waves).
- Human hair has an average diameter of about 65 micron — more than four times as thick as ultrafine wool.



Glossary

Crossbred — an animal whose parents were of two different breeds. For example, Merino and Border Leicester.

Dual-purpose — breeds of sheep used to produce both wool and meat.

Fibre diameter — the thickness of a single wool fibre.

Micron — one thousandth of a millimetre.

Staple length — the distance from one end of a tuft of wool to the other.

More information

To find out more about wool, take a look at:

- learnaboutwool.com
- Beyond the Bale magazine: beyondthebale.wool.com

