

WOOL — FROM FARM TO FASHION



Unshorn fleece



Shearing



Wool bales



Top-making



Weaving



Wool garment

Wool — from farm to fashion

Wool production starts with sheep on the farm and finishes as woollen products used around the world.

Sheep — sheep grow wool, like we grow hair.

Shearing — shearers remove the wool from the sheep using specially-designed handpieces.

Wool handling — woolhandlers **skirt** the fleece and the wool classer **grades** the fleece.

Baling and transport — wool of the same grade is pressed into **bales**, loaded onto trucks and taken to the warehouse for sale.

Auction — wool is sold to the highest bidder and sent for processing.

Scouring — fleeces are washed to remove dirt, dust, sweat and wool grease.

The carded wool is ready to process through one of two routes: woollen or worsted.



In the **woollen process** the carded wool is split into many strips, which are rubbed into slubbings (delicate yarn-like threads) ready for spinning into yarn.

The **worsted process** forms the carded web into a **sliver** of fibres, which is made into **top**.

Top-making — worsted processing turns the carded wool into a '**top**' or 'combed **sliver**'.

The final product of top-making is called a **top**.

Spinning — spinning twists the yarn so it can be knitted or woven.

Knitting and weaving — knitting machines join yarns together with interlocking loops to form knitted fabric.



Weaving looms interlace yarns, usually at right angles to each other to form woven fabric.

Making up — individual panels of garments are cut from flat fabric and joined together to make clothes.

Fabric finishing — woven fabrics and knitted fabrics go through many different processes to wash, flatten, reduce or increase hairiness, stretch, consolidate and stabilise fabrics for end use.

Ready for sale — after pressing, the garments are ticketed and labelled so consumers know how to care for their Merino wool garment.

Glossary

Bales — large bags of wool that have been pressed and ready for sale.

Grade — sort fleeces according to their quality.

Skirt — remove stained pieces from the fleece.

Sliver — A strip of loose untwisted wool fibres produced by carding.

Top — Stage of processing where wool is ready to be spun.

Woollen processing — uses shorter fibres, less stages and produces a thicker yarn than worsted processing.

Worsted processing — uses longer fibres, more stages and produces a finer higher-quality yarn than woollen processing.

More information

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

- learnaboutwool.com
- the posters, fibre, yarn and fabric samples in the hardcopy Learn About Wool Kit.

