

# DIFFERENT TYPES OF WOOL FABRICS





## Different types of wool fabrics

Wool is a versatile **natural fibre**, which can be made into a wide range of woven or knitted fabrics.

Depending on the length and **fibre diameter** (fineness) of a **fleece**, it can be processed through either the **woollen** or **worsted processing** system.

### WOOLLEN-SPUN WOVEN FABRICS

Woollen-spun woven fabrics are generally thick and heavy. They are ideal for warm winter jackets and coats. These fabrics are generally wind-proof and can repel light rain, so are good to wear when playing outside in winter.

### WOOLLEN-SPUN KNITTED FABRICS

Knitted fabrics made from woollen-spun **yarn** are generally heavier and bulkier than worsted-spun knitted fabrics. They make great soft, warm jumpers, scarves, beanies, socks and cardigans.

### WORSTED-SPUN WOVEN FABRICS

**Worsted processing** uses the highest-quality **fleeces** to produce very fine yarns, which can be woven to produce smooth, light-weight fabrics.

These fabrics are used by fine tailors around the world for clothes such as business suits, trousers and skirts. Worsted-spun woven fabrics are ideal to wear in warm weather or inside, where they keep you cool and comfortable.

### WORSTED-SPUN KNITTED FABRICS

Fine worsted-spun yarns produce super-soft knitted fabrics that feel great next to your skin. These fabrics are incredibly versatile — they are used for baby clothes, underwear, t-shirts and sportswear, leggings, dresses and other light-weight knitwear.

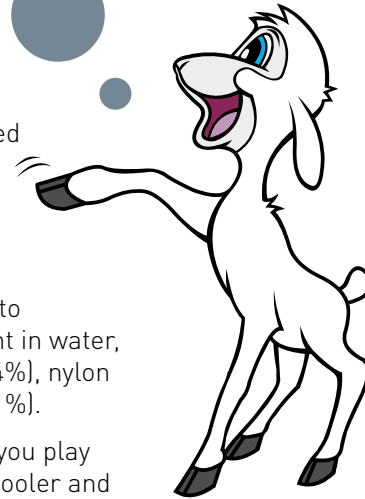
Worsted-spun knitted fabrics can be ideal for wearing every day — they are soft and comfortable and look great, too. They are also great for travelling as they are soft, cool and comfortable and light-weight to pack in your luggage — and they don't need ironing!

## Did you know?

- Merino Fresh business suits can be washed by hanging them in the shower — ready to wear the following day with no need for ironing.
- Wool naturally absorbs UV rays from the sun, but UV Merino is specially treated during processing so the fabric can increase the Sun Protection by up to 20UPF units.
- Many wool garments are machine-washable, and some can be tumble dried. They won't shrink, lose their shape, fade or colour-bleed.

## FUN FACTS ABOUT WOOL

- Cool Wool fabrics are specially designed to be worn in a hot climate — like Australia — during spring and summer.
- Wool can absorb up to 35% of its own weight in water, more than cotton (24%), nylon (7%) and polyester (1%).
- Wearing wool when you play sport can keep you cooler and drier by absorbing moisture from your skin as you sweat.



## Glossary

**Fibre diameter** — the thickness of a single wool fibre.

**Fleece** — the wool that covers the body of a sheep, usually removed by shearing.

**Natural fibre** — a fibre sourced from a plant or animal, not manufactured in laboratories (synthetic fibre).

**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, high-quality yarn than woollen processing.

**Yarn** — fibres of wool twisted together to form a rope-like thread ready for knitting or weaving.

## More information

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

- [learnaboutwool.com](http://learnaboutwool.com)
- Beyond the Bale magazine: [beyondthebale.wool.com](http://beyondthebale.wool.com)
- [woolmark.com/textile-innovations](http://woolmark.com/textile-innovations)
- the posters, fibre yarn and fabric samples in the hardcopy Learn About Wool Kit.

