Wool processing

1. Growing
   Every year sheep grow wool on their body naturally. All they need is water, sunshine and grass.

2. Shearing
   Shearers remove the wool from the sheep using specially-designed handpieces. Wool handlers skirt the fleece and the wool classer grades the fleece.

3. Baling and transport
   The shorn fleece is pressed into bales and transported to a warehouse to be sold to a wool buyer.

4. Washing
   The greasy wool is scoured (cleaned) to remove any contaminants — dirt, lanolin (grease) and vegetable matter (plant material).

5. Carding
   Removes the knots and tangles from the clean wool and takes away anything else that is not wool.

6. Combing
   Combing removes any vegetable matter and shorter fibres to produce a top.

7. Dyeing
   Worsted fabric can be dyed a wide range of colours at various stages of processing.

8. Spinning
   Small fibres of the wool are twisted together to make a longer and stronger fibre called yarn.

9. Weaving or knitting
   Machines join the yarns together and turn them into clothes.

10. Final garment
    Woven fabrics are cut and sewn together to form garments, while knitwear pieces are 'linked' together to produce a final garment.