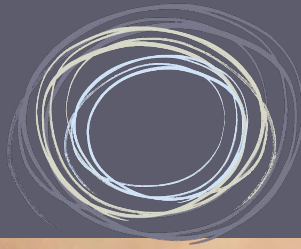


Types of Fibre



The Good Yarn



Fibre

Fibre refers to any type of thing that can be spun into a thread or yarn. It encompasses everything from horsehair to dryer lint. If it can be made into yarn, you can call it Fibre.

Alpaca - A animal from the camelid family that look like a llama and are native to South America. Their Fibre is silky soft and extremely warm. Alpaca fibre is naturally water-repellent and fire resistant

Angelina - The trade name for man-made plastic fibre of flat film nature which has a luminescent appearance

Angora - Angora Fibre is plucked or clipped from an angora rabbit. Their wool is super fine and silky and very warm. This is a luxury Fibre and higher cost, so it is often mixed with wool or another Fibre. Angora is known for its softness, thin fibres, and fluffiness.

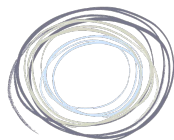
Cashmere - a Fibre that comes from goats which is very fine (less than about 18 microns) and is considered a luxury Fibre because it is relatively hard to find. It has been used to make yarn, textiles and clothing for hundreds of years. Pure cashmere can be dyed and spun into yarns and knitted or used in weaving.

Cellulose Fibre - A Fibre made from the cell walls of some plants. Cellulose fibers can be used to create a wide range of fabrics, from a heavy denim or corduroy to a light muslin or organza. Examples of cellulose fibers include hemp, linen, cotton, ramie, and sisal

Domestic Wool - is wool that has been produced in your own country as opposed to being imported from elsewhere. This can make the wool less expensive.

Filament - Filament fibres are continuous fibre. Natural filament fibres are rare, but silk is a good example: as a material in filament form, silk is reeled from cocoons. Much more common are the man-made, synthetic materials like nylon and polyester.

Fine wool - This is any wool with a micron count of 18 – 24 or a Bradford Count of less than 64. Merino is considered a fine wool



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Flax - A Fibre that is made from a plant and is spun into threads which we call linen. It can be spun wet or dry.

Fleece - The wool off one sheep is a fleece. In the grease is an unwashed fleece and a cleaned or washed fleece has had the lanolin removed.

Gray Wool - White wool that has some dark Fibres, or in naturally coloured sheep, has many dark Fibres.

Guard Hair - Hairs in a fleece that are course and stiff. The usually protrude from the main fleece and are undesirable in large numbers. Guard hairs are mostly removed during the cleaning and scouring process.

Lamb's Wool - The first shearing from the sheep, usually before one year. It is soft, elastic, and slippery, and is used in high-grade textiles

Linen - A yarn or fabric that has been made from Fibres from the flax plant. Linen is very strong and absorbent, and dries faster than cotton.

Lock - A bunch of Fibre that naturally holds together in one wave or curl, usually from the grease in the wool.

Long Wool - wools that are longer, from 8 inches or more and are taken from long wool breeds such as Lincoln long-wools, Wensleydale or other breeds that produce very long staple lengths.

Merino - Australian Merino wool is the world's finest and softest wool in the world. Its natural benefits are so great that no other fibre - natural or man-made - can match it.

Mohair - Long and shiny locks of Fibre that are harvested from the Angora goat. These Fibres from a young goat are silky soft and perfect for fine garments. The courser Fibres are used for garments, rugs, and sock yarn.

Novelty Yarns - Yarns with a lumpy - bumpy texture, pieces of ribbon or other non-traditional appearance. These are quite popular and can make some fun projects.



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Nylon - A man made material that is often added to sock yarn to give greater durability. It can be knitted in with a separate strand, or yarns can be purchased with this already mixed in.

Plied Yarns - When you spin a bobbin of Fibre you have a single spun yarn. When this is spun again with a second third or more singles in the opposite direction the singles were first spun, it is a plied yarn. Plied yarns have less pilling and are also more durable, particularly for knitted garments.

Polyester - A man-made Fibre that can be knitted in or blended in to increase strength of the yarn.

Primitive sheep / wool - These sheep are less domesticated and are more primitive. Their wools are often double coated, they have a courser longer Fibre and a finer soft undergrowth of Fibre. Shetlands and Icelandic's can both carry this type of fleece, and they are also a primitive type sheep. These sheep can also have single coat fleeces as well.

Protein Fibres - Fibres derived from animals, such as wool or silk, and some plant Fibres such as soy silk. These Fibres are dyed with acid dyes and a great way to test if your Fibre is protein or cellulose is to try dyeing it with Kool Aid. Cellulose like cotton will not take up any of the dye, some plant Fibres will dye with Kool Aid, such as soy silk. Always test first with a small sample!!!

Purebred - An animal with both parents of the same breed, usually these animals are resisted with a breed association, to prove they are purebred.

Qiviut - The soft and fluffy undercoat from the musk ox. This is the warmest Fibre you can wear. It is rare and one of the most luxurious fibres you can choose for a garment.

Quarter Blood Wool/ sheep - usually refers to a fleece or sheep that is one quarter Merino.

Raffia - a cellulose Fibre derived from raffia palms.

Range Wool - Essentially, wool from a free-range sheep that was raised on the range in western America.



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Raw Silk - Fibres that have been degummed and taken off the silk cocoon, but not spun yet.

Raw wool - Wool that is still "in the grease" as in not washed or scoured. It is in its natural condition; not refined or processed.

Rayon - another man-made Fibre that drapes nicely and has a soft feel.

Reclaimed Wool - Wool that has been recycled from old garments or cloth. You can often buy a wool sweater at a thrift shop and unravel it, then re-knit it into another garment.

Second Cuts - When the shearer cuts an already cut Fibre twice accidentally or through carelessness. These little clumps of short Fibres will make very undesirable balls in the yarn and greatly increase pilling in the finished garment.

Slubby Yarn - The lumpy bumpy slubby yarn that can be so lovely in projects, this yarn has a varied thickness and lends the finished fabric a unique look and feel. This is often like what a beginner spins, excepting that the beginner is not usually trying to produce slubs.

Space Dyed Yarns - Yarns with irregular areas of colours, like hand-painted yarns.

Spinner's Fleece - A fleece that is at least 2 inches long, but not more than 4 inches, and has very little vegetable matter. These can be longer than four inches, but from 2-4 is the easiest to spin, but this is variable, and the term may apply to fleeces that are longer than four inches, depending on the breed of the sheep.

Superfine Wool - Wool measuring from 15-18 microns, these have been developed from careful breeding of merino sheep.

Tussah silk - Silk grown from worms naturally (wild) cultivated.

