

Wool processing

LEARN ABOUT WOOL

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).



7 Dyeing

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



6 Combing

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



5 Carding

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



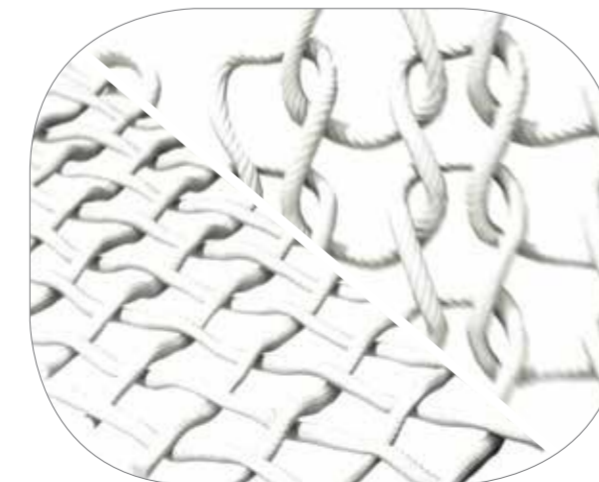
8 Spinning

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.

