

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT WOOL FABRICS

PINDLER

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Wool is a type of fabric derived from the hairs of various animals. While most people associate the word “wool” with sheep, there are, in fact, a variety of distinct types of wool that producers derive from animals other than sheep, such as alpacas, camels, and goats. The wool fabrics currently in the Pindler line are sheep and lambswool, offered in both recycled and virgin wool. Virgin wool is wool made from a lamb’s first shearing, this term can also refer to wool that hasn’t been recycled.

FIBER TO FABRIC

The production of wool begins with the shearing process by which the woolen fleece of a sheep is cut off. Next, the shorn wool is scoured, a process of cleaning the greasy wool to strip it of lanolin. Lanolin is a natural oily secretion from the skin of the sheep that becomes trapped in the sheep’s wool and provides many benefits for the sheep’s skin and coat. There are a variety of ways to remove the lanolin in raw wool, scouring may be as simple as a bath in warm water or as complicated as an industrial process using specialized equipment.

Once the wool fibers are clean, they are sorted, and then they are carded, which is the process of making the fibers into long strands. Carding breaks up locks and clumps of fiber and then aligns the individual fiber to be parallel with each other. These carded strands are then spun into yarn. The spinning process is a technique where the fiber is drawn out, twisted, and wound onto a bobbin. Once the fibers are spun onto the bobbin and gone through a final washing, the yarn can be woven into woolen textiles.

NATURAL BENEFITS

Wool is a very strong, durable, natural fiber and once woven into fabric, the material wears well and maintains its structure. Its natural elasticity means that the fibers are less likely to break and also help wool fibers to spring back into shape once bent, which means that woolen fabrics have a natural wrinkle resistance.

NATURAL BENEFITS CON'T

Wool is well known for its insulating properties. Because of wool's natural waviness or "crimp", the fibers do not lay flat on each other, instead air is trapped between its fibers forming an insulating barrier. However, wool has a high thermal resistance and impedes heat transfer. This is why wool is both a great insulator and breathable, keeping you comfortable in all seasons.

Wool is also flame-resistant. It has a lower rate of flame spread, a lower rate of heat release, a lower heat of combustion, and does not melt or drip; it forms a char and self-extinguishes. Therefore, wool fabric is highly useful in applications in which the reduction of flammability is desired.

CARE AND CLEANING

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