

THE TRANSFORMATION



The process from shearing shed to retail store involves several steps and generally takes up to nine months.



CLASSING

Once the fleece has been shorn from the sheep, the fibre is classed according to its attributes and end use before being pressed into nylon wool packs. A full wool bale contains fibre from between 30 to 60 sheep and weighs around 140kg. Cora Lynn produces just under 100 bales a year.



WOOL TESTING

The bales are then transported to broker stores, where samples are taken and tested for fibre quality factors such as whiteness, brightness, fibre diameter, fibre distribution, fibre curvature, yield and vegetable matter.



WOOL BROKER

We sell our fibre through The New Zealand Merino Company, which is 50% owned by New Zealand Merino growers. As a company which also specialises in marketing and R&D, we work in partnership to promote our fibre globally.



SCOURING

Unprocessed fleece is referred to as 'greasy' wool. A sheep's fleece naturally contains oils that help to protect the sheep and the fibre from infection, moisture and bacteria. Before the fibre can be processed into yarn it needs to be scoured (washed). Scouring removes natural grease as well as dirt and other contaminants. The grease (or lanolin) is collected and used to make products such as hand and face creams.



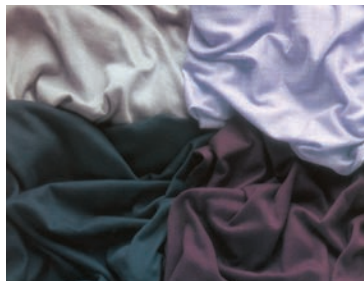
CARDING AND COMBING

After scouring, the fibre is carded (blended) to ensure consistency and combed to align the fibres before it is transformed into 'top', a long white sliver of combed, clean wool, which is incredibly soft to the touch.



SPINNING, KNITTING AND WEAVING

The fine white and bright Merino fibre is spun into specialised high quality yarns that can be used for knitting or weaving. There are different types of yarn; woollen, semi-worsted and worsted, which go into different uses. Woollen yarn generally goes into knitted fabrics and chunkier knitwear, while worsted yarn is typically used for woven fabrics for fine suiting.



DESIGN AND PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

New Zealand Merino is used internationally in a variety of market segments: luxury suiting, fashion knitwear, active outdoor and lifestyle products, not to mention children's clothing – a true test of softness next to skin. Like the Cora Lynn landscape where our Merino sheep fare so well, it is fitting that our fibre is created into garments that range from hard-wearing and rugged, to breathtakingly beautiful.