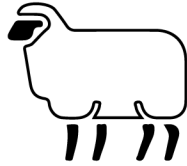


WOOL PROCESSING

stages and industry segments



01

Sheep Producers

An experienced shearing crew harvests the wool and ensures each animal is cared for and treated properly. Once the fleece (6–12 lbs.) comes off the sheep, dirty portions are removed, and it is packaged in a 450-lb. bale for shipping.

Wool Warehouse/Broker

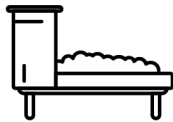
Wool from farmers and ranchers is delivered to warehouses where it is weighed, quality is determined, and it is marketed to buyers.



02

First-stage Processing

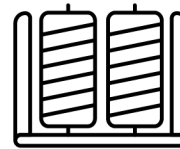
Worsted, semi-worsted, & woolen processes include washing (scouring) the raw wool to remove impurities. Depending on end-point use, wool fibers are further aligned through carding and combing processes to produce a thick roving.



03

Spinning & Dyeing

Wool can be dyed at the roving, yarn, or fabric stages. Spinning twists roving, extending the fibers and giving strength to yarn for weaving or knitting. Spinning machines can create various yarns for a variety of end-point uses.



04

Weaving & Knitting

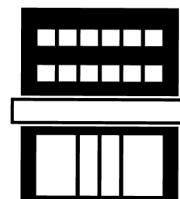
Weaving produces cloth by interlacing two sets of yarn at right angles to each other-this repeated process forms woven fabrics. Interlocking loops of yarn produce knitted fabrics. Mechanical knitting needles are just as accurate and often faster than hand knitting.



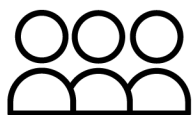
05

Wholesaler/Retailer

Wool can be utilized in various products, from next-to-skin base layers, heavy outerwear, home insulation, garden pellets, band-aids, or even composite materials.



06



07

Consumer

Consumers choose wool for numerous qualities, including moisture wicking, thermal comfort, flame resistance, durability, and breathability.



UW

College of Agriculture,
Life Sciences and
Natural Resources

Sheep Extension

Wyoming Wool Initiative