



What Is the Difference Between **WOOL** and **COTTON**?

Wool and cotton are great products. They are used to make many things. You wear things made from both products. Wool and cotton come from different places.

Wool comes from sheep. Llamas, and alpacas also produce fiber. Wool comes off the animal when they are shorn. It is like getting a haircut. Wool shorn from an animal is called a *fleece*. The fleece is sent to a mill. The wool is used to make clothes, carpets, upholstery, tennis ball covers and many more things.^{xi}

Cotton comes from a plant. Farmers plant cotton seed in the spring, and it grows throughout the summer. In the fall, the farmer harvests the cotton.^{xii} The cotton is sent to a mill. The cotton is used to make clothes, diapers, wipes and so much more.^{xiii}

Wool and cotton give us more than clothes, carpets and other products. Wool gives us lanolin. Lanolin is like a lotion. We use lanolin for skin care.^{xiv} Cottonseed gives us more than cotton. Cottonseed is crushed and produces an oil. The cottonseed oil is used in things like cooking oils and salad dressings. The rest of the crushed cottonseed is called *meal*. The meal is used in livestock feed and fish feed.^{xv} Wool and cotton give us so much!



7

Did you know?

American paper money is made of 75% cotton.^{xvi} One pound of wool can make 10 miles of yarn.^{xvii}

Try it!

Close your eyes and feel samples of cotton and wool fabric. Can you tell the difference?

