

Felt Information Series

Felt: fiber

Let's talk about fiber, the foundation of all textiles. Dietary fiber helps our digestion and optical fibers transmit light. If we touch, our nerve fibers are stimulated. In textiles, a fiber is a strand of material that can be *natural*, *manufactured from natural materials*, or *synthetic*.

Natural Fibers. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) states that a "natural fiber" refers to any fiber that exists as

such in the natural state. That includes fibers from plant sources and animal sources, of which **wool** is the most popular.



wool fiber

National Nonwovens uses wool from the Merino breed of sheep in all its WoolFelt® product lines. Merino wool is regarded the

finest according to strict industry standards because it has a luxurious softness compared to coarser grades of wool.

Manufactured Fibers from Natural Materials.

These fibers are plant-based or cellulosic. This category is complex and often confusing to consumers because of the "natural" and "manufactured" classifications. National Nonwovens manufactures felt using two types of manufactured fibers that derive from natural materials: rayon and bamboo.

Rayon, primarily made from wood pulp, was the first manufactured fiber and the textile industry adapted it as the term for all organic viscous fibers. It has many appealing properties such as superb softness and drape. When National Nonwovens blend rayon and wool together, the best characteristics of both fibers are utilized. As a result, our WoolFelt® blends are enormously popular and are typically preferred over other felts because of their versatility and value.

Fibers - Craft & Hobby Felt Products

Natural Fibers

WOOL

(WoolFelt)

WoolFelt is made from Merino sheep, the highest grade wool

Manufactured Fibers - Natural Materials

BAMBOO

(XoticFelt)

Bamboo fibers come from the pulp of bamboo plants

RAYON

(blended felts)

Cellulose fiber, primarily made from wood pulp

Manufactured Fibers - Polymers

ACRYLIC

(FiestaFelt & GlitzyFelt)

Synthetic fiber made from chemicals

Bamboo fibers are made from the pulp of bamboo plants. This specialty cellulosic fiber is classified as rayon by the FTC. Bamboo fibers are extremely smooth and soft. National Nonwovens' XoticFelt®, made from bamboo fibers is noticeably softer than other felts. It also uniquely absorbs dyes for luxuriously rich and vibrant colors.



bamboo-rayon fiber

Synthetic Fibers made from Polymers. Felt in this category typically include acrylic, polyester, or nylon fibers. Acrylic is the highest quality of all the fibers in this class and is what National Nonwovens uses in its FiestaFelt® and GlitzyFelt product lines. Acrylic fabric is lightweight, washable, and inexpensive compared to felt products made from natural materials.