



Information and support on *unspun* products

This information sheet provides information for existing and possible customers interested in **products other than yarns** made by The Natural Fibre Company.

These can be used for mulch, insulation, stuffings, felting, peg-loom weaving, hand-spinning, craft work, textiles, quilting wadding and much more! They add to the versatility of your fibre and provide further options if a fibre is unsuitable for spinning.

Capability

Our processes for *unspun* products include the following:

- **Sourcing** suitable additional fibre for your requirements if you do not produce your own
We source both via merchants and direct from specialist small producers of rare, regional and British breeds wools. We specialise in British wool in individual breed-based yarns and understand the characteristics of these fleeces but can also add alpaca, mohair, mulberry or tussah silk, flax, nylon, cashmere, etc., to your blend
- Hand **sorting** and **grading** of wools, mohair and alpaca, including colour sorting Jacob wool
- **Scouring** in our own plant (or organising contract scouring for larger volumes)
- **Teasing** scoured fibre to return as loose fibre for hand carding or combing, felting or to use as stuffing
- **Blending**, including blends of different fibres and colour mixtures
We specialise in yarns in the natural colours from the original sheep, goat or alpaca, and we also blend with other fibres. Some wools work well blended with mohair. Blending, particularly of intermediate shades of grey and beige, produces slightly heathered shades, which are attractive for dyeing, and felting.
- **De-hairing** alpaca and other Camelid fibres
- **Carding** for output as scoured/carded fibre, either in fat rovings (for felt) or coiled (for spinning, similar to tops but softer)
- **Tops**: but this is not suitable for all breeds – please enquire
- All of our processes can be done to Soil Association **organic** specification, License Number X9061

In addition to this, we can produce to order, to add to your range:

- Specific breeds local to the area where your business is based, in some cases from named farms, sourcing from local producers for whom we regularly spin yarn from their flocks
- Specific finishes, such as two-coloured, striped soft rovings, added noils (from combing process) to provide natural coloured flecks in rovings



THE NATURAL FIBRE COMPANY



Items made to order will be subject to minimum quantities of 10kg finished unless we are able to re-label or otherwise share a batch between customers or with our own on-line shop. If you are having yarn made and can supply more than the 20kg minimum, we can make part of your order into **unspun** products for a small split-batch additional charge.

Apart from the **unspun** fibre products as above, we also make woollen and worsted spun yarns to various finishes suitable for weaving, knitting, crocheting or dyeing from your fibre or can supply you with a growing range of British breeds natural and dyed yarns through Blacker Yarns and classic Blacker Designs **knitting patterns**, designed to suit from the beginner to reasonably experienced knitter. We can make some patterns available by means of annual license agreement (£20 per pattern), renewable and updateable to reflect our latest designs. In addition there is a small range of free downloadable patterns from our website for personal use only.

Business terms

As a small business, we need to receive payment in full prior to sending you your completed order, so we invoice the final amount when we have finished the work. We also require a first stage payment, of £150 plus VAT per sack submitted for processing, when you order. If we are supplying you with fibre, rather than processing your own, we will agree on a first stage payment at the time you make your order, normally at least the full price of the purchased fibre.

Prices start from our small-scale commission price list but are negotiable for volumes over 40kg, regular orders, etc.

Delivery is normally around 4 months from greasy fibre but will be indicated at the time the order is placed.

Support for ALL The Natural Fibre Company customers

We provide the following:

- Guaranteed return of your own fibre when we process for you
- Friendly advice and support on choice of fibres, blends and yarns
- Product information, including full details of sources of fibre
- Regular editorial, advertising and patterns in the textile, craft and smallholder press, participation at key wool events and shows, including Wool Week
- Links to local fibre producers in your area, including possible visits by arrangement (please enquire)
- Individually processed batches to give you exclusivity
- News and information on events, deals, new products, etc.
- Links to your website from ours, customer case studies
- Display samples of knits and textiles using our yarns (please enquire)
- Customised labelling
- Attendance at your local event free of charge, just our expenses (you will need to book in advance though!)
- Expertise and information on sheep, breeds, spinning, etc., also on The Natural Fibre Company website



Blacker Sheep Limited, trading as Blacker Designs, Blacker Yarns and The Natural Fibre Company
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Registered Company Number 5426960 VAT Number 867 1186 01



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



This business is supported by the Rural Development Programme for England, for which Defra is the Managing Authority, part financed by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas

THE NATURAL FIBRE COMPANY



Environment and Society: our values

We try very hard to minimise our impact on the environment and to be good citizens:

- We source entirely British fibre (apart from silk and flax) and it is processed entirely by The Natural Fibre Company at Launceston in Cornwall. We do occasionally buy in small quantities of yarn for test marketing but it is clearly labelled as such
- We use almost exactly the same processes for our normal production as we do for organic production, aiming to use best practice on use of oils and detergents and to reduce, re-use and re-cycle as far as possible
- We try to deal fairly and promptly with all enquiries, customers, suppliers and staff
- Our Environmental Policy is available on request, our Praise and Complaints Policy is on our website, along with our Values statement
- We welcome comments, questions and ideas, even though we cannot always promise to implement them all.

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