

Common Fibers & Project Suggestions

Animal Fibers

Wool

Spun from the fleece of sheep, wool is one of the most popular yarns,

Pros:

- strong & durable
- breathable
- moisture wicking

Cons:

- prone to pilling over time
- possibly itchy

Works well for winter & summer garments.

Mohair

This is a fluffy, luxurious fiber.

Pros:

- soft sheen
- lightweight
- very warm
- highly elastic
- durable

Con:

- fluffiness can be difficult to work
- does not give defined stitches.
- expensive

Ideal for making cardigans, sweaters, and scarves.

Alpaca

Spun from the fleece of Alpacas,

Pros:

- soft & silky
- durable
- breathable & hypoallergenic
- retains heat

Cons:

- Can overdrape
- Expensive

Works well for winter & summer garments.

Plant Fibers

Cotton

This is one of the most common natural plant fibers.

Pros:

- very smooth fiber
- has great drape
- breathable
- lightweight.

Cons:

- inelastic
- stretches & gets soggy when wet

Great for warm weather projects & flowing off complicated stitchwork

Bamboo

Created from the bamboo plant

Pros:

- strong & durable
- breathable
- soft & smooth
- lightweight
- has great drape

Cons:

- tends to lose shape
- inelastic
- susceptible to mildew

A great choice for warm weather garments.

Linen

Fibers made from the flax plant.

Pros:

- strong
- smooth
- moisture wicking
- non-pilling.

Cons:

- inelastic
- heavy
- still to work with
- wrinkles easily

Perfect for warm weather garments

Synthetic Fibers

Acrylic

Made from a type of plastic called acrylonitrile.

Pros:

- inexpensive
- durable
- hypoallergenic
- does not easily degrade

Cons:

- tends to be stiffer
- rough & scratchy

A general use yarn. Good for a wide assortment of projects such as hats, blankets, garments & more.

Nylon

The very first synthetically created yarn.

Pros:

- strong & durable
- lightweight
- good elasticity

Cons:

- poor sun resistance
- poor moisture resistance

Ideal for accessories such as purses, belts, totes and some home décor, like pillows and macrame.

Polyester

An inexpensive chemically made yarn.

Pros:

- highly durable
- strong
- flexible
- wrinkle & shrinking resistant

Cons:

- not breathable
- prone to static buildup

Good projects for this yarn are blanket, throws, afghans, and granny squares.