












Properties of fibres Chooser Chart

This chart indicates the performance of different fibres for certain criteria. For each criterion the fibres are listed in order of performance with the highest performers at the top and the lowest at the bottom.

Cleanliness and washability 	Bleaching 	Shrinkage 	Absorbency 	Strength 	Resilience and elasticity 	Effect of heat 	Effect of light 	Mildew 	Clothes moths 	Dyeing 
glass fibre	cotton	wool	cotton	glass fibre	elastomeric	glass fibre softens at 730 °C	elastomeric affected only after prolonged exposure	nylon	cotton	silk
elastomeric	flax	cotton	flax	nylon	nylon	rayons decompose at 300-400 °C	modified acrylics – good resistance	polyester	flax	cotton
polyester	wool	flax	silk	polyester	wool/hairs	traicetate becomes sticky at 300 °C	acrylics vary	acrylic	made fibres	wool
nylon	silk (with care)	rayon	viscose	flax	silk	acetate sticks to iron at 177 °C, melts at 260 °C	nylon	modified acrylics	silk	rayons
acrylics	viscose with mild sodium hypochlorite	silk	rayon	silk	polyester	polyester melts at 249-290 °C	acetate	elastomeric	wool not resistant	acetate
modified acrylics	acetate	acetate	wools and other hairs	cotton	acrylics	acrylics begin sticking at 204 °C, modified shrink at 235 °C	rayons	triacetate	nylon	nylon
silk	acetate	other made fibres	acetate/ triacetate	acrylics	modified acrylics	nylon yellows at 150 °C, melts at 215-250 °C	wool	acetate will discolour	acetate	flax
acetates	triacetate (mild)		nylon	modified acrylics	modified rayon	wool decomposes at 130 °C, burns at 300 °C	flax	wool affected over a long time	rayons	polyester
triacetates	nylon polyester (with care)		acrylics	viscose rayon	acetate/ triacetate	silk destroyed at 165 °C	cotton loses strength	silks damaged after a time	wool	acrylics
flax	polyester (with care)		modified acrylics	acetate	viscose	cotton scorches at 150 °C, burns at 246 °C	silks deteriorates in the sun	cotton	flax	modified acrylics
cotton	acrylics		polyesters	wool/hairs	cotton			flax		
rayons	modified acrylics (vary)		glass fibre	metallic	metallic			rayon		
viscose	elastomeric (with great care)		elastomeric	triacetate	flax					
wool			metallic	elastomeric	glass fibre					