



We care for your fleece as if it were ours

Fleece Preparation

Skirting

While we take every care to process your fleece to the highest standard, best results will be achieved if your fleece is well prepared before you send it to us. Our pricing is based on incoming raw fleece weight so we recommend you skirt your fleece to remove as much courser fibre, vegetable matter and dust as you can. Heavily vegetable or moth/bug/rodent contaminated fleeces cannot be accepted and will be returned to you at your cost.

Neck (and sometimes leg) can be processed but you will experience greater loss due to differing staple lengths. A skirting service is available upon request - see price list for current charges.

Fibre Loss

In relatively clean fleeces, we generally expect a processing loss of 20-30% from the raw fleece weight. Greater losses are experienced when a fleece has a higher proportion of courser fibres and/or vegetable matter. Our separator is designed to separate out longer, courser fibres, so more consistent fleeces will experience less loss.

If you wish to blend your fleeces, try to match (approximately) for colour, micron and staple length. This will help to reduce the overall loss and result in a better quality product.

Fibre Characteristics

We can process fleece from huacaya and suri alpacas. Best results are achieved from fleeces up to 28 micron with a comfort factor in excess of 90%. Ideally, staple length should be between 10-15 cm. Fleeces outside of these specifications can still be processed but they will feel harsher and more prickly. We recommend using courser fleeces for felts, batts or rovings.

Cria fleeces

We can process cria fleece but recommend that the raw fleece weight be greater than 700 grams. Brittleness, leading to fibre breakage and therefore greater loss, can sometimes be experienced in fleeces from cria that have not previously been shorn. Where possible, the best option is to blend 2 or 3 cria fleeces of similar colour and staple length.

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