



THE WOOLMARK COMPANY

# WOOLMARK SPECIFICATION

FIBRE CONTENT OF  
WOOLMARK BLEND PRODUCTS

## SPECIFICATION F-5

Effective 1 January 2016

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## **SPECIFICATION F-5: 2016**

### **FIBRE CONTENT OF WOOLMARK BLEND PRODUCTS**

This specification is applicable to **Woolmark Blend** branded products in any country, assuming that the products also meet other appropriate specifications.

1. Apparel, interior textiles and floor covering products containing at least 50% new wool in blends with other fibres
2. Only one non-wool fibre (man-made or other natural fibre) may appear in intimate blend with wool in a single yarn
3. Products defined in 1 and 2 above and:
  - a) containing up to 5% non-wool fibre for decoration (or 7% non-wool fibre for decoration in the EU member states) and/or
  - b) in EU member states only, containing up to 2% non-wool fibre for antistatic effect and/or
  - c) containing specific fine animal hairs.

The above specification must be read in conjunction with the notes overleaf.

#### **NOTES**

1. The requirement for a product to contain 'at least 50%' new wool may be replaced by a higher requirement in a product specification.
2. '**New wool**' includes fibre from the fleece of sheep or lambs (wool). The fibres must not previously have been spun into yarn or felted nor previously have been incorporated into a finished product.
3. Included are fleece wool, skin wool, wool fibres from soft untwisted wastes such as loosely connected wool fibres obtained as a by-product of the carding or combing of previously unprocessed wool, broken tops, noils, roving wastes and roller wastes. It is not permitted to include ginned wools, flocks recovered from wet or dry finishing processes, nor fibres reclaimed from wool-filled mattresses.
4. '**Other fibres**' includes any type of natural-polymer (e.g. viscose, lyocell) or synthetic-polymer (ie polyester, polyamide) or natural fibre (includes silk or vegetable fibre) in the new state. Re-used fibres are not permitted, nor are reprocessed fibres that have previously been spun into yarn or felted or previously have been incorporated into a finished product.
5. Only one non-wool fibre (man-made or other natural fibre) may be used in intimate blend with wool in an individual (ie single) yarn. The Woolmark Management Group may authorise requests to use more than one non-wool fibre in an intimate blend for good reasons.
6. If two or more single yarns are twisted together, it is permitted to have different non-wool fibres in each of the single yarns.
7. Only one non-wool fibre ('man-made' or 'other natural fibre') may be used in intimate blend with

wool in non-spun products like: filling layers or nonwoven fabrics.

8. Products composed of 100% non-wool warp or weft are permitted if the overall product fibre content is at least 50% new wool.
9. The additional allowance for decoration is not applicable for products sold in Australia.
10. 'Fine animal hairs' includes angora goat (mohair), cashmere goat (cashmere), camel, alpaca, llama, vicuna and angora rabbit. However, angora rabbit may not be described as wool in Canada, Mexico, South Africa and USA.
11. If fine animal hairs are included in a product no mention of the fact may be made on the label; the product must be labelled as x% new wool (ie wool plus fine animal hair), y% non-wool fibre. The presence of fine animal hair may be mentioned on an additional (non-Woolmark Blend) label.
12. In Australia and New Zealand, fine animal hairs must not be described as wool and, if included in blends with wool, must be described by their generic name(s) to distinguish between sheep's wool and other fine animal hair (e.g. cashmere).

#### **ADDITIONAL NOTE**

- A tolerance of  $\pm 3.0\%$  is permitted between the nominal (stated) blend ratio and the ratio measured using The Woolmark Company TM155. However there is an absolute minimum wool fibre content of 50% when tested using TM155.
- An allowance of 0.3% adventitious fibrous impurity is permitted. This is acceptable only if it is fibrous (ie where the non-wool fibre is in the form of separate fibres). It is not acceptable if the impurity occurs as yarn or in a form where it is obvious that the fibres have been previously twisted together.

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