



Textile Terminology: A Visual Guide



by Baljinder Kaur


Fibers: Natural vs. Synthetic

Natural Fibers

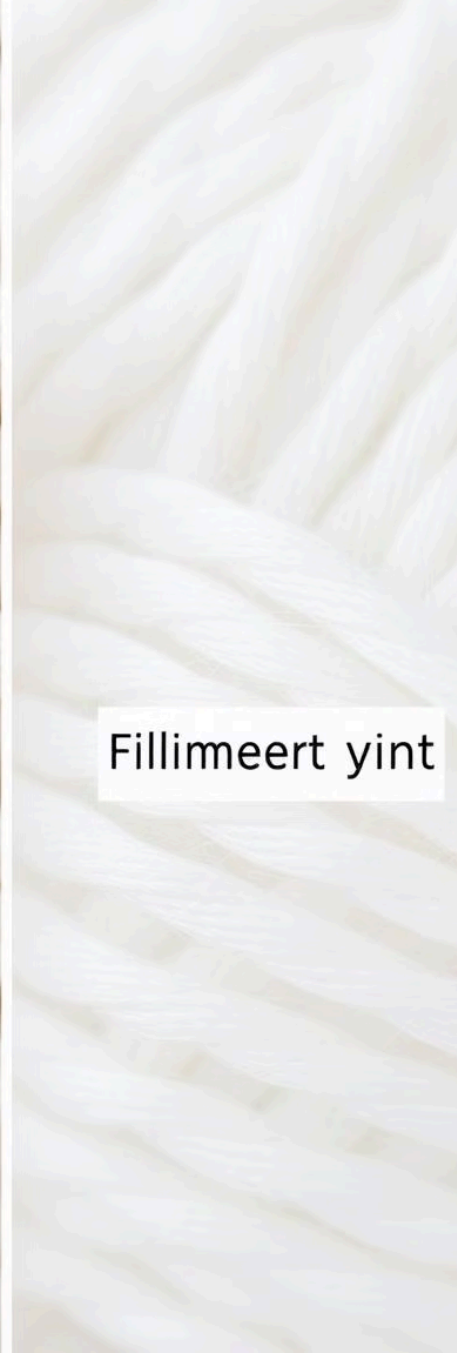
Derived from plants or animals, these fibers offer unique qualities like softness, breathability, and durability. Examples include cotton, wool, silk, and linen.

Synthetic Fibers

Created through chemical processes, synthetic fibers provide specific properties like strength, wrinkle resistance, and water repellency. Examples include polyester, nylon, and acrylic.



Spun



Filament

Yarn Structure: Spun vs. Filament

Spun Yarn

Created by twisting short fibers together, spun yarns are typically soft and have a fuzzy texture, often used in knit fabrics.

Filament Yarn

Made from long, continuous filaments, filament yarns are smooth and strong, commonly used in woven fabrics.



Fabric Construction: Weaving vs. Knitting



Weaving

Interlacing two sets of yarns at right angles, creating strong and durable fabrics like denim and linen.



Knitting

Interlooping yarns together, creating flexible and stretchy fabrics like sweaters and T-shirts.

Fabric Finishes: Dyeing and Printing



Dyeing

Adding color to fabrics by immersing them in dye baths, resulting in a consistent color throughout.



Printing

Applying color or designs to fabrics using various printing techniques, creating patterns and intricate details.





Textile Properties: Breathability and Durability

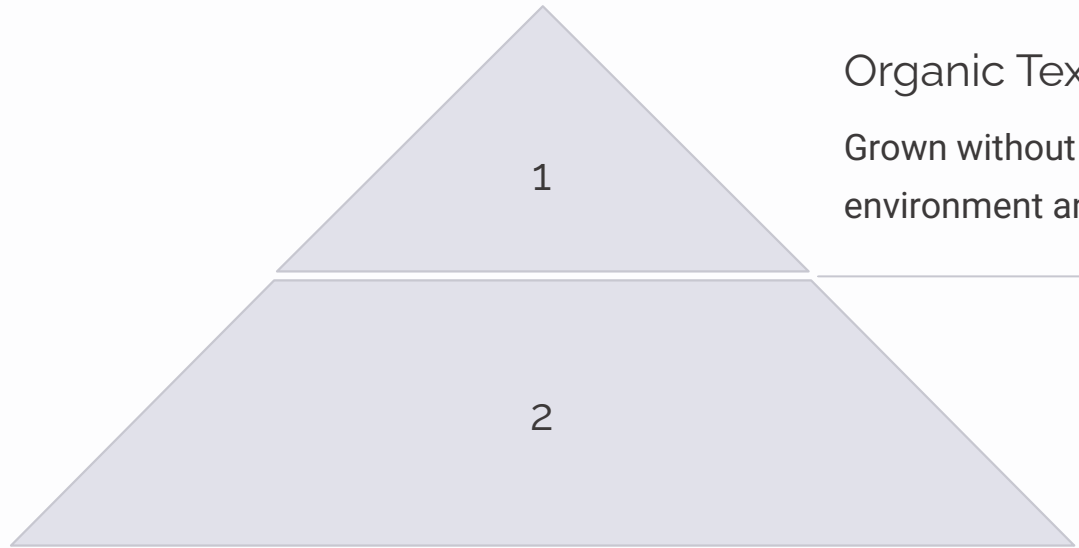
Breathability: Fabrics that allow air to circulate, keeping you cool and comfortable.

1

2

Durability: Fabrics that resist wear and tear, maintaining their shape and integrity over time.

Sustainable Textiles: Organic and Recycled



Organic Textiles

Grown without harmful pesticides and fertilizers, these fibers are better for the environment and human health.

Recycled Textiles

Made from pre-consumer or post-consumer waste, these fibers reduce textile waste and conserve resources.

Textile Applications: Fashion and Home Decor

1

Fashion

Textiles are the foundation of clothing, from everyday wear to haute couture.

2

Home Decor

Textiles enhance our homes through curtains, upholstery, rugs, and bedding.



Conclusion: The Language of Textiles

1

Understanding

Knowing these terms empowers you to make informed choices about the textiles you use and buy.

2

Appreciation

This knowledge allows you to appreciate the artistry and craftsmanship behind textile production.