

	Fiber	Description	Softness	Washability	Durability	Elasticity	Cost	Pilling
Animal	Merino Wool	Merino is sort of considered top of the food chain in the knitting world. It's incredibly soft, fairly durable, and comparatively inexpensive when compared with your luxury animal fibers.	Next to Skin	Handwash	Depends	Elastic	\$\$\$	Moderate Pilling
	Peruvian Wool	This is your basic wool yarn. It's a bit scratchy, so I wouldn't make a cowl neck sweater out of it. But it felts beautifully, and if you want to make a cheaper blanket, it's a great option.	Soft to touch, not to skin	Handwash	Very Hard Wearing	Elastic	\$\$\$	Moderate Pilling
	Superwash Wool	Excellent for baby and kid knitting as well as socks as it's essentially washable. This fiber goes through an extra treatment process that makes the yarn resistant to felting when washed.	Next to Skin	Machine Wash	Depends	Elastic	\$\$\$	Moderate Pilling
	Alpaca	This fiber comes from animals that look like mini llamas. It's very soft, however the tougher guard hairs can get into the yarn and make it a little "pokey" on occasion. It's also about 4 times as warm as wool is.	Luxurious	Handwash	Depends	Somewhat Elaztic, Drapy	\$\$\$\$	Moderate Pilling
	Silk	We all know what silk is. In the knitting world it is just as luxurious of a fiber. Often it's combined with wool. And makes simply gorgeous final projects. One interesting note though is that silk is actually quite a bit warmer than wool, so it's an excellent choice for hats and mittens to match your classiest coat.	Luxurious	Handwash	Delicate	Not Elastic, Drapy	\$\$\$\$\$	Doesn't Pill
Plant Fibers	Cotton	This is baby knitting favorite. Totally washable, usually quite soft, it can also be very hard wearing as well. It does tend to pill a bit.	Next to Skin	Machine Wash	Hard Wearing	Not Elastic, Drapy	\$\$	Pills
	Bamboo	Bamboo fiber is made from the pulp inside the bamboo plant. It is very soft and is often blended with other fibers to give it a beautiful sheen. Occasionally you'll find a pure bamboo yarn.	Luxurious	Machine Wash	Depends	Not Elastic, Drapy	\$\$	Doesn't Pill
Semi Synthetic	Rayon/Modal	This is a fiber that's manufactured cellulose out of naturally occuring polymers. That's all I know about it's orgin. I do know it's a wonderfully smooth fiber that adds a lot of luxurious sheen when blended with wool or cotton.	Luxurious	Machine Wash	Depends	Depends	\$\$	
Synthetic	Nylon	A fiber that's made from synthetic polymers. You will find nylon in most yarns designated as "sock yarn" as it gives the wools some extra durability.	Next to Skin	Machine Wash	Hard Wearing	Depends	\$\$	Pills
	Cheap Acrylic	Avoid. I've heard it described as knitting with plastic grocery bags, and I couldn't agree more.	Squeaky	Machine Wash	Hard Wearing	Depends	\$	Pills
	Quality Acrylic	Not all acrylic is created equal. Acrylic blends, especially ones manufactured by the higher quality brands can be quite nice to work with, and again acrylic is washable wich is usually a bit win with people.	Next to Skin	Machine Wash	Hard Wearing	Depends	\$\$	Pills