

# INFORMATION ABOUT MATERIALS

**ginatricot**

## **ACETATE**

Acetate is made from cotton linters, which are fibres from cotton that are not long enough for making cotton yarn. It shrinks and wrinkles less than other cellulose-based fibres. However, the material will pill with use and it is not so strong.

## **ACRYLIC**

Acrylic is made from crude oil. It is a synthetic fibre that is similar to wool. Acrylic holds up well when exposed to sunlight. It is also relatively strong and does not wrinkle. The material does, however, easily become static. It will also pill with use and may shrink when washed.

## **ALPACA**

Alpaca wool comes from alpacas, animals that are similar in appearance to llamas, which live in the Andes Mountains of South America. This type of wool is one of the finest, softest fibres in existence. Alpaca wool is very durable. It is warm and comfortable when worn directly against the skin. It has a silky feel and it is expensive, primarily because it is scarce.

## **BETTER COTTON**

This type of cotton is grown within the scope of the project, Better Cotton Initiative. Farmers participating in the project receive training about sustainable farming methods that conserve water and don't rely on harmful chemicals. The resulting fabric, however, has the same characteristics as ordinary cotton.

## **COTTON**

Cotton is a natural fibre that is grown in a warm climate. It is comfortable to wear because it is soft and able to absorb a lot of moisture. Cotton can be washed at a high temperature and it is durable when wet.

## **ORGANIC COTTON**

Organic cotton is grown in an environmentally friendly way, without chemical pesticides and without the use of chemicals. It is comfortable to wear because it is soft and able to absorb a lot of moisture.

## **ELASTANE**

Elastane is a synthetic fibre similar to rubber. It is mixed with other fibres to increase a garment's elasticity. Elastane is very stretchy and highly elastic.

## **CASHMERE**

Cashmere comes from the soft, downy undercoat of Cashmere goats. It is a very soft, luxurious material that is used in knitted garments. It is both thermal and moisture absorbent.

## **CUPRO**

Cupro is made from cotton linters, which are fibres from cotton that are not long enough for making cotton yarn. Cupro has characteristics similar to viscose, but cupro has a higher wet strength and it is more wrinkle resistant. It is soft, with a nice drape.

## **LENZING VISCOSE®**

Lenzing viscose® is made from sustainably produced European forest resources. It otherwise has the same characteristics as ordinary viscose.

## **LINEN**

Linen is a natural fibre derived from flax plants. Linen has a beautiful sheen and it is a soft, cool fabric to wear. The fabric easily absorbs water, dries quickly and is very durable. Linen garments wrinkle when worn, but that's simply part of their charm.

## **LYOCELL**

Lyocell is made from wood cellulose, which is harvested from eucalyptus trees. It can be recycled at a level up to 99%. It is also biodegradable. Lyocell is stronger and has a higher wet strength than viscose. Garments made of lyocell are soft and have a nice drape. However, they may pill and shrink. Lyocell manufactured by Lenzing is called Tencel®.

## **MERINO**

Merino wool comes from Merino sheep. It is a fabric that is very soft and comfortable to wear. It is both thermal and moisture absorbent. Gina Tricot only uses merino wool from farms where mulesing does not occur.

## **METALLIC FIBRES**

The main purpose of metallic fibres is to give a garment a certain effect. It is necessary to handle garments that are made entirely from metallic fibres with care, as the threads are very delicate.

### **SUEDE**

Suede is a type of leather, made from the underside of the skin, or by splitting the skin so that it can be buffed to a soft, napped finish. Suede is a very durable fabric that adapts to changes in temperature and moisture by absorbing and transporting moisture. It does, however, easily stain.

### **MODAL**

Modal is similar to viscose, but it has a higher wet strength and becomes stronger when wet. It is a very suitable choice for underwear and lingerie.

### **MOHAIR**

Mohair comes from Angora goats and it is often mixed into the yarn of heavy knit garments to add fullness and a natural effect. Mohair fibres are long, with natural lustre and sheen, which is why you can easily see them sticking out in fabrics containing mohair.

### **POLYAMIDE**

Polyamide is made from crude oil and it is the strongest of all synthetic fibres. Polyamide is blended with other fibres to increase the durability of a garment. Polyamide is a very elastic and soft material. Although it does not wrinkle, it can pill when exposed to friction.

### **POLYESTER**

Polyester is a synthetic fibre, which is made from crude oil. Polyester is strong, does not wrinkle as easily as natural fibres and it maintains its shape well. This material is easy to maintain, and very little ironing is required. Polyester is prone to static, and it can attract dirt and dust. It does not attract moisture and it dries quickly after washing. With use, the garment may pill.

### **POLYURETHANE**

Polyurethane is a type of plastic made from crude oil. It is also called PU or vegan leather. Polyurethane is a strong, durable material that is similar to leather.

### **PROVISCOSE®**

Proviscose® is a more environmentally-friendly alternative to viscose. It is made of 30% Tencel® (Lyocell) and 70 per cent Lenzing Viscose®. Manufacturing occurs in a closed-loop process, which is more environmentally friendly. Proviscose® has a higher level of quality compared to regular viscose because there is less shrinkage and pilling. It has a luxurious feel, with a very nice drape.

### **RAMIE**

Ramie comes from a plant belonging to the nettle family. It is spun in the same way as cotton. In many ways, the appearance, characteristics and usage of ramie is the same as linen. Ramie is very durable, but it lacks stretch and elasticity. Garments made from ramie are rather stiff and they wrinkle very easily. Ramie and cotton are often blended, resulting in softer garments.

### **SILK**

Silk is a natural fibre produced by silkworms. It is a relatively strong fibre, but nevertheless delicate because the fabric is so thin. Silk fabrics should be handled with care. Silk easily reacts to salts, so the fabric may become weak in places where you sweat, such as at the armholes. It has an incredibly beautiful lustre and luxurious drape.

### **LEATHER**

At Gina Tricot, we use leather obtained from animals that have been raised for food production. It's a more sustainable process, since the leather is a by-product that would otherwise go to waste. Leather is a very durable fabric that adapts to changes in temperature and moisture by absorbing and transporting moisture. Leather is malleable, adapting to the shape of your body. Leather just gets better with age if it is cared for properly.

### **WOOL**

Wool is a natural fibre from sheep or lambs. The curly structure of the fibre isolates against both cold and heat. Wool is also very moisture absorbing. It does, however, pill when exposed to friction.

### **VISCOSE**

Viscose is manufactured from cellulose, primarily wood fibres. It is soft and similar to cotton, but not as durable. The material becomes weaker when it is wet, so garments made of viscose should be washed gently and quickly to help them retain their original shape.

## P R E M I U M   Q U A L I T Y

### ALPACA

Alpaca is a type of wool that comes from animals bearing the same name. Alpacas are similar in appearance to llamas and they live at high altitudes in the Andes Mountains of South America. This type of wool is one of the finest, softest fibres in existence. The fabric is very durable, warm and comfortable, even when worn directly against the skin. It has a silky feel and it is expensive, primarily because it is scarce.

**CARE AND HANDLING:** Wool items may pill. The best way to remove pilling is with a razor blade or fabric shaver.

### CASHMERE

Cashmere is a type of wool that comes from Cashmere goats. These types of goats live in a cold climate and thus have a very soft, downy undercoat. Cashmere is a luxurious fabric used in such garments as knitted sweaters and scarves. It is expensive primarily because of its scarcity. In fact, it takes approximately 2-4 years for one goat to produce enough wool for a single sweater.

**CARE AND HANDLING:** Many cashmere sweaters pill, but these tiny fibre balls are soft and easy to remove. The best way to remove pilling is with a fine-tool comb, or by hand.

### LINEN

Linen is a natural fibre derived from flax plants. Linen has a beautiful sheen and it is a soft, cool fabric to wear. The fabric easily absorbs water, dries quickly and is very durable.

**CARE AND HANDLING:** Linen garments wrinkle when worn, but that's simply part of their charm.

### MERINO

Merino wool comes from Merino sheep. It is a fabric that is very soft and comfortable to wear. One issue concerning Merino wool that has attracted widespread attention is mulesing. It is a way of preventing parasitic infection by removing strips of wool-bearing skin from around the buttocks of a sheep, without the use of any pain relief. The method is highly controversial, which is why Gina Tricot only uses merino wool from farms where mulesing does not occur.

**CARE AND HANDLING:** Wool items may pill. The best way to remove pilling is with a razor blade or fabric shaver.

### SUEDE

Suede is a type of leather, made from the underside of the skin, or by splitting the skin so that it can be buffed to a soft, napped finish. Suede is a very durable fabric that adapts to changes in temperature and moisture by absorbing and transporting moisture. It does, however, easily stain.

### MOHAIR

Mohair is a type of wool that comes from Angora goats. Mohair is often mixed into the yarn of heavy knit garments to add fullness and a natural effect. Mohair fibres are long, with natural lustre and sheen, which is why you can easily see them sticking out in fabrics containing mohair.

**CARE AND HANDLING:** Mohair easily pills. Pilling is when small, excess fibres ball up on the surface of the fabric. In the past, pilling was regarded as a sign of poor quality in a fabric. Now, however, we know that pilling is simply excess fibres and that this occurs even with very exclusive fabrics. With time, pilling will typically decrease. The best way to remove pilling is with a razor blade or fabric shaver.

### SILK

Silk is a natural fibre produced by silkworms. It is a relatively strong fibre, but nevertheless delicate because the fabric is so thin. Silk fabrics should be handled with care. Silk easily reacts to salts, so the fabric may become weak in places where you sweat, such as at the armholes. The fabric is expensive, because of the complicated manufacturing process.

**CARE AND HANDLING:** Silk garments are delicate, so they need to be handled with care. There is a risk that the fabric will pull away at the seams, so make sure to select a size that is not too tight!

### LEATHER

At Gina Tricot, we use leather obtained from animals that have been raised for food production. It's a more sustainable process, since the leather is a by-product that would otherwise go to waste. In other words, we never use leather from animals that have only been raised for the purpose of manufacturing leather items. Furthermore, the leather we use comes from selected tanneries, where we check the work environment and use of water/chemicals. Leather is a very durable fabric that adapts to changes in temperature and moisture by absorbing and transporting moisture. Leather is malleable, adapting to the shape of your body.

### WOOL

Wool is a natural fibre that comes from sheep or lambs. Because of its structure, wool fibre keeps you warm regardless of whether it is dry or damp. Some people find that wool can be itchy if the fibre structure is too coarse.

**CARE AND HANDLING:** Wool items may pill due to the varying structure and length of the fibres. Pilling tends to occur in places that are exposed to friction, such as at the armholes of a garment. The best way to remove pilling is with a razor blade or fabric shaver.