

Fibre Listing

These organisations listed below will process your alpaca fibre on commission. These range from one man operations to “large” commercial operators. The commercial operators usually have minimum run sizes, but may vary from their normal policy. To be added to this list, email fibrelist@alpaca.org.nz .

For more information, please contact the individual business. AANZ does not recommend any business or warrant the quality of its services.

Fibre Processors

Fibre Purchasers

Key:

Term	Definitions
<i>Wash</i>	Wash/scour raw fleece. <i>Note: All processors will require fleece to be washed before processing. Alpaca doesn't need harsh scouring agents as there is no lanolin to remove, but it is usually filthy with dirt which would contaminate equipment and produce an inferior result.</i>
<i>Pick/tease</i>	Open up the fibre, loosening the staples and any compacted area; will allow much dirt and some vm (vegetable matter) and short cuts to fall out. Fibre can also be blended at this stage.
Card	The fibres are opened and spread evenly in preparation for spinning; produces sliver or batts,
Coil	
Gilling	The fibres from the sliver is aligned and evened producing a consistent roving for the spinner.
Comb	The fibres in a roving are further aligned and any short fibres removed to make a top for worsted spinning.
Spin	Spin into a singles yarn; a singles yarn is normally unstable, taken off the cone it would twist and kink.
Fold or ply	Combine 2 or more singles into a stable yarn.
Wrap	Wrapped yarns normally combine two different singles by wrapping one around the other. An example of this is boucle yarn which is often made using a fine artificial binder yarn.
Worsted	A type of yarn made from combed top where the fibres are aligned, short fibres have been removed and a smooth, hard wearing yarn is made. This type of yarn will retain lustre and can produce very fine, smooth fabrics.
Semi-Worsted	This is made from top or gilled roving, but air is trapped in the yarn during spinning. These yarns will be more elastic than worsted yarns and steaming can provide softness and loft.
Woolen	Fluffy, soft, low twist yarn. This can feel beautiful, but as short fibres have not been removed, finished articles may pill and shed badly.
Dye	Colour the fibre. This can be done after washing and after spinning on cones or in skeins.
Space Dye	Yarn is dyed using distinctly separate colours. In small volumes this can be achieved by dyeing skeins, using different colours around the skein.

	Commercially, it is done by a computer controlled machine much like an ink jet printer.
De Hair	Remove fibres over a certain diameter. Traditionally used for dual coated fleeces (e.g. cashmere) it is useful in alpaca to remove strong primaries from a fleece and will also remove vm.
Skein/hank	Finished yarn is wound from cones onto hanks. This displays the yarn attractively and is often used for hand spun, artisan and space dyed yarns. For the end user this can be an inconvenience as the yarn needs to be balled for easy knitting or coned for weaving.
Sliver	A continuous thick strand of prepared, carded fibre.
Roving	A thin elongated continuous strand of fibre ready for spinning.*
<i>Top</i>	A continuous, untwisted sliver of combed fibre with fibres lying parallel and from which short and weak fibres have been removed.*
<i>Batt</i>	A thick mass of carded fibre taken directly of the large drum of a carding machine.*
*	<i>Definitions from Spinning Camelid Fibre by Doe Arnot</i>
% ¹⁰⁰	Will process 100% Alpaca