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The 4 Pillars of IWTO

- **Trading Instruments**
  - Test Methods
  - Regulations
  - Arbitration
  - Market Information / Statistics
  - Licensing
  - Laboratories

- **Facilitating Industry Strategy**
  - Forums to discuss the strategies of the wool industry in respect to Marketing, R&D and other areas of the wool textile pipeline

- **Market Access Development**
  - Advocating political and economical interests of the wool sector towards governments and organisations
  - Act as the catalyst for the implementation of Marketing strategies

- **Networking**
  - Building world wide industry relationships through Congresses and events
  - Membership communication via IWTO website

**IWTO - International Wool Textile Organisation**

Rue de l’Industrie 4
1000 Brussels - Belgium

Phone: +32 2 505 40 10
Fax: +32 2 503 47 85

E-mail: info@iwto.org

Web site: www.iwto.org

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carbon dioxide in the atmosphere providing a better environment.

Wool is a globally traded commodity and its market diversity is vast and ever expanding. It is found in many sectors; apparel and fashion, active-
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dustry, which is a major worldwide employer and brings multiple benefits to people, products and the planet.
Clothe our children in wool and... allow their skin to breathe more easily, keeping them warm in winter and cool in summer whilst protecting them from harmful UV rays and the risk of fire.

Use wool in active-wear, sports-wear and work-wear and... discover superior comfort and a healthy wearer-sensitive climate, which provides perspiration management and essential odour control. Wool's natural elasticity - up to 30% flexible extension without damage - coupled with its resilience, moisture absorption and unique flame retardant attributes make it a healthy, safe fibre for sport and work wear.

Fit more wool-rich carpets in our houses and public buildings and... limit airborne dust, stimulate internal humidity control, reduce heat loss and cushion noise. In the home, approximately 10-20% of heat is lost through the floor; wool carpets insulate the home and can save an average of 11.3% on domestic energy consumption.

Equip buildings with wool interiors and... bring improved fire safety and air quality to the interior. Wool is naturally flame resistant, does not melt or drip and emits less smoke and toxic gases than any other commonly used fibre. Additionally, wool's complex cell structure provides a natural chemistry that will clean the air and keep it purified for up to 30 years. Following the installation of wool in five buildings that had formaldehyde concentrations above the World Health Organisation’s recommended level of 0.05ppm; German researchers recorded that the level in all five buildings had dropped below that level within 24 hours.

Use more wool in bedding and... enjoy 25% more deep regenerative sleep and improved fire safety properties. Recent studies show that when sleeping under a wool quilt, the heart rate will be statistically lower for the whole sleep period providing a more rested condition.

Ensure wool is used in curtains and upholstery and... reduce excessive sound transfer, which causes noise pollution, provide additional protection against the hazard of fire posed by man-made fabrics in soft furnishings and further improve internal humidity control.

Support the wool industry in protecting the word ‘wool’ from being abused and... ensure that the rights of every consumer that chooses to buy wool are protected because only real wool must be allowed to be marketed with this valuable description.
Renewable... Sustainable... Natural

Animal Welfare & Environment

The wool industry is committed to the highest standards of sheep care and well-being and supports scientific research in this area. Wool farmers are dedicated to the job of looking after their animals and keeping them healthy, to ensure the wool maintains the right qualities for the textile industry. Farmers are always looking towards the best available animal husbandry practices to ensure good economic management of their business and optimum results in their produce. The routine care of sheep will include shearing, foot pairing and feet care, drenching for worms, dipping for lice, crutching, vaccinations, nutrition (pasture management and supplements) and birthing assistance. This proactive approach provides uncompromising welfare standards for sheep across the world.

“Wool runs on grass!”

Wool is an annually renewable natural resource grown on sheep. It is a planet friendly fibre as it has the ability to biodegrade without harm to the environment and can be recycled.

These inherent advantages continue to underpin wool’s heritage as today’s best natural eco-fibre, just as they have done for many previous generations.
Lower embodied energy
A fundamental requirement in sustainable products is the capacity to limit energy use in production. Wool products use a fraction of the energy of a comparable manmade material.

Security of supply
Wool is one of the earth’s most sustainable resources; it is an annually shorn and replenished resource. The amount of wool available to supply the global textile industry is only limited by the number of sheep farmed across the world.

Lower transportation footprint
Wool is sourced at home or abroad, when imported it can be shipped easily in a high-density form, which generates a lower carbon footprint.

A long life material
Wool can last for many hundreds of years without losing its resilience or structure. This is historically exemplified in carpet, which can resist footfall in high traffic areas without losing either its appearance or its robust ability to function.

100% biodegradable
Wool is a long-life fibre, maintaining its moisture retention properties and flexibility for many years. It will then biodegrade in soil without harm to the planet and the environment, fulfilling optimum life-cycle benefits.

Low carbon impact
Significantly less energy is required in the production of wool products compared to manmade fibre products and this ensures carbon dioxide emissions are kept very low. Therefore the increased usage of wool can positively reduce the level of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.
Applications

Wool is a multifunctional fibre in a range of different fibre diameters for apparel, interior and technical textiles.

Apparel:
Suits, jackets, pullovers, coats, sportswear, skiwear, scarves, gloves, socks, hats, underwear, active wear, childrens wear, thermal underwear, waterproof fabrics, casual wear, shoes, formal wear, hand knitting wool, uniforms, kilts

Interior Textiles:
Carpets, duvets, mattresses, pillows, blankets, upholstery, tapestries, lamps, chairs, rugs, futons, bedspreads, tablecloths, wall coverings, sofas, felts

Technical Textiles:
Aircraft interiors, thermal insulation, sound insulation, sound vibration control, roof insulation, filtration, fire proof wear, police uniforms, military uniforms, air conditioning, bandages, second skin injury prevention, piano felts, wool filters for dust chemical odours, billiard cloths, automotive composites, tennis balls
Wool offers a very broad range of uses.
Wool means: Non-flammable

Wool is non-flammable unlike almost all alternatives. It simply requires more oxygen than is available in the air to become flammable and this makes it a superior fibre for fire safety. Furthermore, it does not melt, drip or stick to the skin when it burns.

Wool can also absorb a number of VOCs from surrounding materials and lock this within the fibre core permanently.

Flammability Index of Carpets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fibre</th>
<th>Ignition index (0,40)</th>
<th>Flame spread index (0,20)</th>
<th>Heat evolved index (0,20)</th>
<th>Smoke evolved index (0,20)</th>
<th>Flammability index (0,40)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wool</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polypropylene</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nylon</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acrylic</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Wool means: Less static electricity

Due to its moisture absorption capabilities, wool is far less likely to cling to the body when worn.

Static charge leakage from various fabrics, measured after 15 minutes at 15% humidity

Wool means: UV protection

Wool helps protect against the serious risk to skin and associated long-term health issues caused by the potentially damaging rays of the sun. Testing of various textiles in clothing show that wool has a natural UV protection factor of 30+ in more than 70% of cases - this is much higher than most synthetics and cotton.

Wool means: More sound absorption

Wool is a perfect sound insulating material having the capacity to dampen or absorb both high and low frequency sound.

Typical airborne sound absorption values
Branding & Consumer Friendliness

Branding and Consumer Friendliness
The wool industry supports accurate and safe consumer rights to ensure protection against false and misleading statements and branding. A detailed, consumer friendly system of identification and traceability of wool products, enables the consumer to have confidence in its quality attributes. However, support from governments and the respective regulatory bodies is needed to protect this important benefit.

Comfort & Safety
Wool has numerous natural attributes that make it one of the most comfortable and safest fibres to wear.

Wool means: Clothes that Breathe. Wool has the natural ability to breathe and can absorb up to 35% of its own weight in moisture due to its hydrophilic core. This is then naturally released as vapour in to the air and provides comfort from perspiration throughout the day. No other fabric offers this amazing wearer-sensitive comfort.

Wool means: Multi-climate. Wool is active and synthetics are passive. The active response of wool to fluctuations in body temperature offers warmth when it is cold but will self-adjust when temperatures increase by releasing heat and moisture to keep a comfortable clothing climate.

Wool means: Health. Wool has a number of health benefits including improved sleep for the general population, reduced risk of SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) for babies, and lower incidence of microbial infection for hospital patients.

Easy care
Wool has had a hand wash reputation in the past but wool has a natural resilience and modern wool fabrics are truly easy care.

Wool means: Active perspiration control. Wool is more effective than synthetics at absorbing perspiration caused by exertion. The natural absorption of wool moves moisture away from the skin so that it can evaporate, ensuring coolness and dryness.

Wool means: Durable. Wool fibres can be bent 20,000 times without breaking which explains why wool garments are so long-lasting.

Wool means: Odour reduction. Wool will absorb moisture, reducing sweat on the body, this in turn reduces the amount of resulting body odour, caused by sweat and its contact with any bacteria on the skin.

Wool means: Quick drying. It was formerly thought that synthetics dry at a faster rate than wool, however the latest technology enables wool to be as quick-drying.

Wool means: Stain resistant. Wool fibre has a protective layer that prevents stains from being absorbed. As it is also anti-static, it picks up less dust and lint from the air.
The main use of wool - 66% is in the manufacturing of garments (apparel) followed by the use in interiors - 30%, which includes carpets, rugs and upholstery. Finally, the industrial use of wool accounts for 4%.
Wool is a natural fibre for the world we live in today. It is a fibre with a true ‘green’ lineage that is both sustainable and binding stable - which are now highly valuable assets to the textile industry. This environmental advantage is increasingly a sought after requirement of fibre but wool has many other inherent benefits that have historically earned it a high reputation from global manufacturers and consumers.

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Wool is a globally traded commodity and its market diversity is vast and ever expanding. It is found in many sectors; apparel and fashion, active-wear, flooring and interiors, aviation, automotive, architecture, manufacturing, medical use and protective apparel. These all use wool and with this dynamic versatility, it has proved itself to be the original ‘Smart’ fibre.

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To position and to value wool clearly in the consumer mind as a material which is desirable for its technical, ethical and comfort values.

WOOL

Wool is Natural
- Renewable
- Sustainable
- Biodegradable
- Low carbon impact
- Energy efficient

Wool is Healthy
- Breathable
- Hypoallergenic
- Low allergy
- Toxic chemical absorption
- Sound reduction

Wool is Safe
- Flame resistant
- UV protection
- Static electricity reduction
- High thermal resistance

The Wool Industry:
- Produces around 2.1 million tons of greasy wool per year.
- Takes care of more than 1 billion sheep around the world maintaining high standards of animal welfare.
- Produces wool on several million small-scale farms worldwide.
- Sells US $80 billion of wool products annually at retail in the EU alone, is made up of thousands of industrial manufacturing companies working with wool as a raw material.
- Employee millions of people in wool production, harvesting and throughout its many processing stages.

General Overview

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About us

Vision

History
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NYIO is the international body re- presenting the interests of the world’s wool-textile trade and industry. As such, its membership covers the woolgrowers, traders, primary pro- ducers, spinners and fabric mak- ers, and wool spinning fibres in its member countries, as well as all kinds of organisations related to wool products and the wool business in general. It provides for them a forum for discussion of problems of joint concern and acts as their spokesman with all those bodies and authorities which is desirable for its technical, ethical and comfort values.

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