

Textile Fibers

1. Natural Fibers

These come from natural sources - plants, animals, or minerals.

a) Plant-Based (Cellulose Fibers):

- Cotton - soft, breathable, absorbent
- Linen (Flax) - strong, crisp texture
- Ramie - silky, lustrous, strong
- Jute - coarse, used in sacks, rugs

b) Animal-Based (Protein Fibers):

- Wool - from sheep; warm and elastic
- Silk - from silkworms; shiny and smooth
- Alpaca, Mohair, Cashmere - from different animals

c) Mineral-Based:

- Asbestos (no longer widely used due to health risks)

2. Man-Made Fibers

These are chemically produced from natural or synthetic polymers.

a) Regenerated Fibers (from natural sources):

- Rayon - soft, absorbent, versatile
- Modal - a type of rayon, stronger and more durable
- Lyocell (Tencel) - eco-friendly, soft

b) Synthetic Fibers (petroleum-based):

- Polyester - strong, wrinkle-resistant
- Nylon - very strong and elastic
- Acrylic - resembles wool
- Spandex (Lycra) - high stretchability