

Glossary

Key:

Term	Definitions
% ¹⁰⁰	Are prepared to process 100% Alpaca, as long as it is suitable for the process. For weaving and knitting, this might depend on the strength of the yarn. For spinning, length, micron and quality will all play their part. In all cases, discuss this with the processor.
<i>Batt</i>	A thick mass of carded fibre taken directly of the large drum of a carding machine.*
<i>Blanket</i>	The main fleece from the body area of the alpaca. It may include leg and neck fibre if this matches the blanket fibre.
Card	The fibres are opened and spread evenly in preparation for spinning; produces sliver or batts,
Coil	The carded fibre is taken off and coiled, ready for spinning.
Comb	The fibres in a roving are further aligned and any short fibres removed to make a top for worsted spinning.
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.
Dye	Colour the fibre. This can be done after washing and after spinning on cones or in skeins.
Fold or ply	Combine 2 or more singles into a stable yarn.
Gilling	The fibres from the sliver is aligned and evened producing a consistent roving for the spinner.
Guard hair	The straight hair mainly from the chest and belly. This is thick, straight and prickly and must be kept out of the blanket.
<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.
Random 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.
Reeling	Converting yarn to a hank ready for dyeing.
Roving	A thin elongated continuous strand of fibre ready for spinning.*
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.
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.
Skirting	Taking the blanket fibre as it comes from the shearer and taking out fibre

	that does not match the rest of the blanket for fineness and length or is contaminated by VM. Guard hair and second cuts must be discarded. Coarser or shorter areas of fleece from around the edges of the blanket should be removed, but may be combined with other similar fibre. If the shearer has cut any staples in two, these should also be removed.
Spin	Spin into a singles yarn; a singles yarn is normally unstable, taken off the cone it would twist and kink.
Strip Card	Card two or more colours side by side through the carder. Good for spinning up tweeds.
<i>Top</i>	A continuous, untwisted sliver of combed fibre with fibres lying parallel and from which short and weak fibres have been removed.*
Twisting	Combining two or more spun yarns together by applying twist.
VM	Vegetable matter contamination of a fleece e.g. hay, straw, seeds, burrs.
<i>Wash</i>	<i>Wash/scour raw fleece. 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>
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.
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.
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.
*	<i>Definitions from Spinning Camelid Fibre by Doe Arnot</i>