

Summary of fibre properties

Natural fibres

Fibre	Absorbency	Warmth	Ease of care	Breathability	Durability	Strength	Crease resistance	Elasticity	Resistance to mildew	Flame resistance
Wool	****	****	*	***	****	**	****	****	*	****
Silk	***	****	*	***	**	****	**	**	*	**
Linen	****	*	**	****	****	****	*	*	*	*
Cotton	****	**	***	****	***	****	*	*	*	*

Regenerated fibres

Fibre	Absorbency	Warmth	Ease of care	Breathability	Durability	Strength	Crease resistance	Elasticity	Resistance to mildew	Flame resistance
Viscose	****	**	**	****	**	**	**	*	**	*
Acetate	**	**	**	*	*	*	**	**	**	*
Rayon	****	*	*	****	**	***	***	*	**	*
Lyocell (Tencel)	****	***	**	****	****	****	***	***	**	*

Synthetic fibres

Fibre	Absorbency	Warmth	Ease of care	Breathability	Durability	Strength	Crease resistance	Elasticity	Resistance to mildew	Flame resistance
Polyester	*	**	****	*	****	****	****	****	****	***
Nylon (Polyamide)	*	**	****	*	****	****	****	****	****	**
Acrylic	**	****	***	*	***	***	***	****	****	**
Elastane	*	***	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	*

Fabric qualities key: **** Excellent *** Good ** Fair * Poor

These are the most commonly used fibres. This can be used to support the delivery of Qualifications Scotland Fashion and Textile Technology courses.