



THE WOOLMARK COMPANY

# WOOLMARK SPECIFICATION

SHEEPSKIN PRODUCTS

## SPECIFICATION P-1

Effective 1 January 2016

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## ***SPECIFICATION P-1: 2016***

### **SHEEPSKIN PRODUCTS**

#### **PRODUCTS**

The Woolmark logo may be applied to sheepskins for:

- apparel products (including linings, footwear and trimmings)
- underbody bedding products (including infant care and nursing products)
- secondary seat covers (including covers for car seats)
- rugs.

Notwithstanding the application for which the product is designed (e.g. hospital or domestic use), the Woolmark Company and the use of the Woolmark logo implies no claim for or certification of any medical benefit associated with the use of the product.

The Woolmark Blend and Wool Blend logos are not applicable to sheepskin products.

## MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

Property	Test method	Pass level
Quality of fleece and skin	160	Product must be a woollen sheepskin
Shrinkage temperature (°C: minimum)	157	Infant, nursing and hospital products: 95 All other products: 75
Dichloromethane (DCM) extractable matter in leather (%: maximum)	158	Apparel products (excluding trimmings for footwear) and Underbody bedding products (including pillow covers): 10 Floor-coverings, secondary seat covers, cushion covers and trimmings for footwear: 15
Water extractable matter (%: maximum) Apparel products only	159	5
Colourfastness to light of fleece (grade: minimum)	133	Dyed rugs, dyed secondary seat covers and dyed cushion covers only Darker than 1/3 standard depth: 5 Lighter than or equal to 1/3 standard depth: 4
Colourfastness to light of fleece (grade: minimum)	133	Dyed apparel products only Darker than 1/12 standard depth: 4 Lighter than or equal to 1/12 standard depth: 3
Colourfastness to rubbing: wet and dry, fleece and skin (grade: minimum)	165	Dyed products only Stain: 3

## ADDITIONAL MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

### a. Floor-covering products labelled with 'Shampoo' or 'Dry clean' care claim

Property	Test method	Pass level
Colourfastness of fleece to water (grade: minimum)	6	Change of colour: 3 Stain wool: 3 Stain cotton: 3

### (b) Products labelled with a 'Washable' care claim

Property	Test method	Pass level
Colourfastness to washing of fleece (grade: minimum)	250	Dyed products only Change of colour: 4 Stain wool: 4
Colourfastness to washing of leather (grade: minimum)	164	Dyed products only Change of colour: 3 Stain wool: 3–4

## ADVISORY REQUIREMENTS: infant care, car seat covers, underbody bedding products and nursing products

Property	Test method	Requirements			
		Nursing products, medical institutional and domestic bedding products	Mattress overlays	Infant care	Car seat covers
Colourfastness to rubbing: wet and dry, fleece and skin (grade: minimum) Dyed products only	165	Stain: 3–4			
Cleansing	–	See Note 4, below			
Fibre diameter (µm) (see notes 5 and 6 below)	24	26–34		≤ 30	–
Pile thickness (mm) (see notes 5 and 6 below)	279	25–35	15–35	15–25	≥ 15

### NOTES:

- Notwithstanding the application for which the product is designed (e.g. hospital or domestic use), the Woolmark Company and the use of the Woolmark logo implies no claim for or certification of any medical benefit associated with the use of the product.
- Woolmark TWC-TM158 Dichloromethane soluble substances in sheepskins:** this test gives a measurement of the amount of fatty matter in a skin. Bear in mind that not all fatty and similar substances can be extracted from the skin by organic solvents; they may be partly soluble and partly bound to the leather. The solvent can also dissolve non-fatty substances (e.g. sulfur and impregnants). Although it is necessary for the skin to have a certain amount of fatty matter present to retain suppleness, it has been found necessary to keep the amount of fatty matter below a certain level to avoid adverse consumer reaction. The level of DCM extractable matter must be below 10%. In the case of sheepskin trimmings for footwear only, this can rise to a maximum of 15%.
- Woolmark TWC-TM159 Water soluble matter in sheepskins:** the presence of too much water soluble matter in sheepskins can lead to 'salt marking' if the skin side becomes wet with aqueous liquids. To avoid this, the amount of water soluble matter in the skin must be below 5%.
- Woolmark TWC-TM159 Colour fastness to light:** for products sold in Australia and South Africa, Grade 5 is required for shades darker than 1/3 standard depth and Grade 4 for shades between 1/3 and 1/12 standard depth.
- Cleansing**
  - Nursing pads**  
Sheepskin nursing pads must be able to withstand repeated washing and, in certain cases, need to be sterilised. Therefore it is advisable that care instructions should include the following advice where appropriate:  
  
'The skin must be washed and dried at temperatures that do not exceed those at which the skin becomes unstable. (The skins must also be sterilised). Wash at 60°C with a suitable bactericidal detergent. Tumble or hang dry at temperatures not exceeding 60°C. Restore the fleece, if necessary, by combing the wool with a coarse metal comb'.
  - Apparel**  
Sheepskin garments are normally intended to be dry cleaned. For satisfactory results, it is necessary that dry cleaning should be carried out by specialist dry cleaners. Care instruction on garments should read:  
  
'Dry clean at specialist cleaners. Use an uncharged system with no added water. Do not clean in coin-operated machines'.

6. **Mean fibre diameter and pile thickness for infant care and nursing products:** these parameters are advised for nursing products, including those for infant care.

Sheepskin nursing pads need to be able to be washed regularly and, in certain cases, need to be sterilised. Care instructions on products should include the following advice where appropriate:

'The skin must be washed and dried at temperatures that do not exceed those at which the skin becomes unstable. (The skins must also be sterilised). Wash at 60°C with a suitable bactericidal detergent. Tumble or hang dry at temperatures not exceeding 60°C. Restore the fleece, if necessary, by combing the wool with a coarse metal comb'.

7. **Mean fibre diameter and pile thickness for bedding products:** it is known that pile length, pile height and wool type are important factors in determining the performance and comfort of sheepskins used for bedding products.

In selecting suitable skins for various end products, it is advised that the specifications in the 'Advisory' table be applied. While initially aesthetically appealing, pile thickness greater than 35 mm tends to flatten or mat during use and this may lead to user dissatisfaction.

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