Wool is a natural fiber with naturally great characteristics that make it a top choice for wardrobe classics, year in and year out. Its inherent qualities are unequaled in the world of textiles—qualities that make it one of the most versatile fibers when it comes to fabric production.

The Pendleton tradition is founded on an intimate knowledge of the wool business from fiber to fabric. The company founders and the generations that have followed recognized that wool is the best fiber for comfortable, classic, and enduring sportswear and they’ve been giving their customers the finest wool products ever since the first Pendleton blanket left the plant.

When you buy a Pendleton—whether it’s a wool garment, wool fabric, or a wool blanket—you’re buying the expertise, imagination, and dedication to quality that have long been the company’s trademark. And you’re buying a product that will give you years and years of comfort and good looks.
Often called the originator of classic, authentic American style, Pendleton is a company with a proud heritage and a name that still stands for quality and meticulous attention to detail. The Pendleton story attests to the best of American ingenuity and dedication.

Pendleton Threads of Time

1863: Founder Thomas Kay, an English weaver, arrives in Oregon to help organize the state's second woolen mill in Brownsville.

1876: Fannie, Thomas Kay's daughter, marries C. P. Bishop, a retailer by trade. The marriage creates a family of manufacturers and merchants, sowing the seeds for the development and growth of Pendleton Woolen Mills—one of America's premiere clothing manufacturers.

1889: Thomas Kay opens his own mill in Salem, Oregon, fulfilling a lifelong dream.

1909: The Bishop brothers (Kay's grandsons) purchase and update the idle Pendleton Woolen Mills and begin manufacturing vividly patterned Indian trade blankets. They also add motor robes to their product line, appealing to Americans infatuated with the latest product of American ingenuity—the automobile.


1917: Pendleton blankets keep war-weary American soldiers warm at the front.

1924: The legendary Pendleton virgin wool shirt is introduced in solid colors and colorful patterns.

1929: Pendleton begins offering a full line of men's apparel.

1932: Pendleton is awarded the commission to provide special blankets for the Olympic games held in Los Angeles.

1941: Pendleton supports America's efforts in WWII, producing uniforms, blankets, and sleeping bags for the troops.

1949: The trendsetting 49'er jacket is introduced, heralding the launch of Pendleton Women's Wear. It was to become the largest division of the firm.

1956: Pendleton's new reversible pleated skirt turns fashion inside out as teenagers swoon to the music of Elvis Presley. Pendleton plaids are the rage on college campuses.

1960: Pendleton introduces washable wool. Also, the Plaid Shirt becomes the surfer's uniform as the Beach Boys (formerly the "Pendletones") hit it big.
Wool, quite simply, is the hair of sheep. Like human hair, it is made of the protein keratin. Examined under a microscope, the naturally crimped wool fibers reveal a structure of overlapping scales—arranged much like the layers of a pine cone. These are covered by a thin, waxy membrane that repels rain but absorbs perspiration. Inside the scaly layer are cells made of molecules in coiled chains. This structure allows the fiber to expand and contract providing the elasticity that makes wool so comfortable and resilient.

Virgin wool is the cornerstone of Pendleton quality. This is wool fiber that has never been previously spun or woven into fabric. Pendleton never uses recycled wool because many of the qualities that make wool so desirable are diminished by the process.

Wool is naturally resilient. You can count on a wool garment to hold its shape, resist wrinkles, and withstand wear. Resilience gives wool its excellent draping ability and contributes to its “loft” or thickness. When crushed, wool springs back to shape, maintaining an open and porous surface that traps air (about 80% of its volume) and makes wool an excellent insulator. It will keep you warm in winter and cool in summer.

Wool is naturally comfortable. Combine wool’s insulating quality with its natural ability to shed water and you get a fabric that keeps you warm, even when it's wet!
raining. Because it also absorbs up to 30% of its own weight before feeling damp (that’s better than any other natural fiber), wool is even comfortable in very wet conditions. And its ability to breathe lets your body’s natural moisture pass through for day-long comfort.

**Wool is naturally durable.**
Because it’s naturally resilient, wool resists tearing and it can bend back on itself 20,000 times without breaking. (Cotton breaks after only 3,200 bendings!) The scaly fibers give wool fabrics good abrasion resistance and wool’s high absorbency means static electricity, which attracts dirt and dust, is rarely a problem!

**Wool is naturally flame-retardant.**
It burns slowly in a direct flame and self-extinguishes when removed.

**Wool is naturally versatile.**
No other natural fiber can be spun or woven into such a variety of fabric weights and textures suitable for a wide array of clothing, blankets, and accessories. Its super absorbency means wool takes and holds dye beautifully and its resilience makes it an easy fabric to tailor. You couldn’t ask for more from wool—the fiber for all seasons.

---

**Woolen or Worsted?**

Wool yarns are used to create a wide variety of wool fabrics—from flannel shirting, soft knits, and fuzzy melton cloth to smooth-surfaced worsted suitings and classic gabardines. The type of wool yarn used—woolen or worsted—often distinguishes the fabric’s ultimate appearance, performance and care. The broad assortment of wool fabrics provided by woolen and worsted technologies make it possible to select wool garments that span the seasons and life’s many activities in comfort.

---

**Woolen Flannel**

Woolen fabrics are made from yarns spun from wool fibers that vary in length from 1” to 3”. After carding the raw wool—untangling and combing it to line up the short, fuzzy fibers—it is spun into yarns with low or medium twist. The resulting yarns and the fabrics woven from them have a soft, textured hand. They may also look and feel fuzzy and warm. Easy-to-tailor woolens are available in a range of fabrics from soft knits to flannels, tweeds, and coating fabrics.

**Worsted**

Worsted wool fabrics are made from finer wool fibers—generally 3” to 5” long. Additional combing and a tighter yarn twist ensure a smooth, relatively fuzz-free yarn. The resulting worsted yarns are woven into wool fabrics that are crisp and smooth-surfaced and generally lighter in weight than woolens. That makes them perfect for spring and summer wear in particular. Examples include gabardine, lightweight wool suiting, and wool challis. Long-wearing, worsted wool fabrics hold a crease well and retain shape.

---

**Teflon® Fabric Protector**

Increased soil and water resistance result when wool fabrics are treated with Teflon—the same coating you’ll find in your favorite nonstick frying pan! This invisible finish is bonded to the fabric at the molecular level. You won’t see or feel any difference in the fabric’s hand and appearance, but on close examination you’ll notice that spills bead up on the surface and roll right off. Seeing is believing! Easier care, fewer dry cleaning costs, and better protection all mean added value in Teflon-treated wool garments.
A Wool Fabric Sampler

The woolen and worsted fabrics pictured here are classics—fabrics that offer good looks and comfort in any wardrobe year round.

Boiled Wool  Technically not boiled, this comfortable, richly textured, felt-like fabric results when knitted wool fabric is treated with heat, moisture, and agitation.

Flannel  A wardrobe classic for pants, skirts, and softly tailored jackets, wool flannel can be woven with either woolen or worsted yarns. A slightly napped surface is an identifying feature.

Jacquard  Fabrics made on special looms or knitting machines that create intricate designs are jacquards. Fabrics range from lightweight worsteds to heavier woolen blanket cloth.

Challis  Soft and lightweight, challis is usually made with worsted yarns and is most often printed with floral or paisley designs.

Novelty Wools  Developed through use of fancy yarns or an unusual combination of weaves, the array of interesting novelty wools is unending. Loopy boucles and frises are good examples.

Crepe  Made with highly twisted yarns or a specialized weave, wool crepe has a crinkly or pebbled surface. It’s an elegant alternative for softly tailored styles.


Jersey  This lightweight knitted woolen has distinct knit stitches on one side, rounded purl stitches on the other. The smoother knit surface is usually the preferred right side.

Plush  This luxurious woolen fabric—a velvet-like wool—has a dense, short napped surface for warmth without weight.

Flannel Herringbone  This weave is common in both woolen and worsted fabrics. Recognize it by a zigzag-like broken twill pattern on the fabric surface.

Melton  This mid-to-heavy weight woolen fabric has a dense, highly napped surface that sheds rain and keeps out the wind on cold days—great for outerwear.

Tweed  Known for the little slubs of color that run through the fabric, tweeds are popular sportswear woolens which have a nubby surface and mixed color effect.
General Care For Wool

With the proper care, wool garments and hats will provide years of wearing comfort. Take good care of your wool blankets and they could end up cherished heirlooms to pass on to future generations. Here are some care tips for your wools.

- Unless soiled, most wool garments and blankets require cleaning only once or twice a year. Examine periodically for hidden stains.
- Always follow the cleaning instructions provided on the garment care label.
- Allow at least 24 hours between wearings. Wool's natural resiliency helps shed the wearing wrinkles and returns garments to their original shape.
- Remove surface soil and revive surface nap by brushing wool garments lengthwise with a garment brush. It is particularly important to brush garments made with heavily napped surfaces on a regular basis. Revive finer wool fabrics with a damp sponge instead.
- Do not press over stains. The heat can set the stain. Spot clean, dry clean or launder first.
- When traveling, cover wool garments on hangers with plastic dry cleaners' bags to help avoid unnecessary wrinkling. On arrival, remove the bags and refresh the garments quickly by hanging in a steamy bathroom.
- Store garments in a closet with plenty of air and plenty of space so they can breathe. Zip zippers and fasten the top button to avoid unnecessary wrinkles.
- To retain garment shape, use shaped coat and suit hangers for tailored jackets and shirts; use padded hangers for blouses and dresses.
- To preserve shoulder shape and prevent unnecessary stretching, fold sweaters carefully and store in drawers or on a closet shelf. Alternatively, fold and hang over a padded or tubular hanger bar.
- If you’re caught in the rain, hang damp wool clothing out of direct heat and sunlight to dry. Brush when dry.

Dry Clean or Wash?
Wool cleaning options include dry cleaning, hand washing, or machine washing. If the label says “Dry Clean Only,” take the garment to a professional dry cleaner for the very best results. To avoid shrinkage and damage to the hand of the fabric, do not machine wash! A tailored garment with shoulder pads and lining should only be dry cleaned in order to preserve the inner construction and shaping for longer, more attractive wear. Many linings are not washable as well. And, when having your fine wool garments dry cleaned, always be sure to check around for a reputable dry cleaner.

Hand Washing Wool
If the care label says “hand wash,” handle garments carefully. Too-hot water and too much agitation can cause irreversible shrinkage. Follow these guidelines for best results:

- Before washing knits, take garment length and width measurements at several places, including the shoulders, chest, sleeves and hem edges, so that you can resize it when damp.
- Use a mild detergent in enough lukewarm water to cover the garment completely. NO BLEACH please.
- Immerse the garment and allow to soak for 3 to 5 minutes. Squeeze gently to force water and suds through the garment. DO NOT WRING, TWIST, OR SCRUB.
- Rinse thoroughly, using two or more rinses of clear, cool water to remove all trace of soap.
- Squeeze gently to remove excess water before lifting from the sink.
- Arrange the garment between two terry cloth towels and roll. Allow to rest a few minutes to absorb remaining water.
- Lay the garment flat, reshaping as needed and allow to dry away from direct heat and sunlight. Turn the garment over when the top is dry so the remaining side can dry. DO NOT HANG to dry; wet wool stretches easily from the weight of the remaining moisture in the fibers.
- Lightly press if needed, using a steam iron and a wool press cloth.
Pressing & Steaming

Like other wardrobe favorites, wool garments occasionally require touch-up pressing to remove wrinkles and refresh the surface. A good iron with plenty of steam is essential.

- Make sure the ironing board cover is clean and firmly padded.
- Add water to your iron, but don’t overfill it. Set for WOOL in the STEAM range. To avoid water spotting and potential surface damage, allow iron to heat thoroughly. (If water does drip and spots your wool garment, take it to the dry cleaner for steaming to remove water spotting.)
- Press as much as possible on the inside of the garment to avoid surface shine and a worn look. For top pressing, use a press cloth. Special wool-fabric press cloths are available in notions departments of most fabric stores. Or, substitute a soft, white men’s handkerchief or other lightweight cotton cloth.
- When pressing lightweight worsted suits, avoid using a steamer. Use a steam iron and a press cloth instead. Apply pressure with the iron for a smoother surface and crisp edges. For a really professional look, tuck white paper strips under the seam edges to avoid seam imprints. Steamers are great for easing wearing wrinkles out of woolen fabrics with more texture and surface interest.

What About Scorch and Press Shine? The best defense is a careful hand with the iron to avoid heat damage to the surface of your fabric. Always use steam heat, not dry. But if scorch or shine should happen, the following treatments might help.

Scorch. If the fabric is napped and only lightly scorched, rub very lightly with an emery board to lightly scrape away the scorched fiber ends. For heavier scorch, apply a diluted solution of hydrogen peroxide (test first on a hidden seam). Flush thoroughly with cool water and air dry.

Shine. Sponge with white vinegar and rinse thoroughly with cool water.

Coordinating Garments?
A Word to the Wise

Since any cleaning method can result in mild color and surface changes, it’s important to use the same care method for matching wardrobe pieces and color coordinates. To select the appropriate care for the “set,” read the care instructions on each piece.

For example, a jacket may require dry cleaning, but its matching or coordinating skirt may be safely dry cleaned or machine washed. To preserve that perfect match, choose dry cleaning—and have both pieces cleaned at the same time (dry cleaning solutions and results can vary).

If the Label Says Dry Clean, Can I Wash My Wool Shirt?

When a wool shirt carries the “dry clean” care label, you can generally bet that it hasn’t been treated for washability. In that case, washing will result in at least a little shrinkage and some loss of fabric softness. If you, as a consumer, choose to wash a dry-clean wool shirt, you do so at your own risk. However, there are some steps that can be taken to minimize the above changes with washing.

Gently hand wash in cool water. Air dry—lay flat to dry or hang on a plastic hanger. Use a press cloth when pressing to help restore the hand (see page 13).

Machine Washable Wools

Washable wool makes life easier than ever and is a wardrobe option for some often-worn garments such as sweaters and shirts. Washable wool fabrics receive a resin finish which allows them to be safely machine washed in place of the usual hand washing or dry cleaning.

The convenience of caring for these garments is a natural choice with the demands of today’s busy lifestyles. Be sure to check the label for this option to save time and cleaning costs.
Adding other symbols to the basic five makes it possible to give a wide range of care instructions for a multitude of fabrics. Here are some tips to help you translate the new care symbols:

- An X through any of the five means that the method is an inappropriate choice. For example, an X through a circle means “Do Not Dry Clean.”
- A hand above a wash basin means “Hand Wash.”
- A triangle with diagonal lines through it indicates that you should only use non-chlorine bleach, when needed.

Adding one or more dots to the wash, dry or iron symbols indicates the temperature. More dots mean higher temperatures.

- Steam Iron, Low
  Two diagonal lines (which look like feet) beneath the iron symbol indicate that steam is required.

- Dry Flat
  A horizontal line inside the square dry symbol means dry flat.

- Tumble Dry, Low, Gentle Cycle
  A circle inside the square symbol means tumble dry. And, two lines beneath the dry symbol direct you to use a gentle cycle.

Although wool is naturally soil repellent, accidents do happen. Quick action is the best defense. It’s easier to remove most food and beverage stains while they are still fresh.

- Treat stains promptly to prevent setting. Blot, don’t rub, using a clean white tissue or soft cloth to remove as much as possible.
- Take garments with stubborn stains to the dry cleaner as soon as possible—within a day or two is best. Be sure to identify the source of the stain and point out the location.
- Avoid pressing stained or soiled garments. Iron heat can make stains permanent or difficult to remove.
- Chemical stains—dyes, ink, nail polish, paint, correction fluid, paint, and shoe polish—are the most difficult to remove and the most damaging. Take these to the dry cleaner.

Keep a bottle of stain-removal solution on hand for emergencies but make sure it is safe for use on wool. Chocolate, cosmetics, and oily-based stains respond best. Do not use hot water on any of these stains as it may set them or cause the dyes to spread. Follow the package directions and the following precautions:

- First, test the solution on a seam allowance or other inconspicuous place to make sure the dye is colorfast.
- Place the right side of the garment against an absorbent paper towel or cloth.
- To keep the stain from spreading, work from the outer edges toward the center of the stain. To prevent surface damage to the fabric, avoid rubbing. Instead, dab or blot the area with an up and down motion. DO NOT RUB.
Hats / Blankets Care

Keeping Wool Hats in Top Shape
Wool’s natural ability to repel water and soil make it the perfect choice for a hat. Wool felt and fabric hats require some special care.

- Brush regularly to remove loose soil or lint. Choose either a lint brush or a soft natural bristle brush or try a dry natural sponge. If the hat is felt, brush around the hat in one direction.
- To remove stains, spot clean with a commercial spot remover. Test first in an inconspicuous area of the hat.
- Check the inner hat band periodically for soiling. Ask a tailor or dressmaker to replace a heavily soiled fabric hat band. Some western shops or dry cleaners may be able to replace leather ones.

Caring for Wool Blankets
To preserve the beauty of your wool blanket or throw, you’ll want to take special care of it. Have your wool blankets dry cleaned. It’s the best method for retaining the size, shape, hand, and appearance.

Wool Storage Tips
Wool is much loved by several species of moths and carpet beetles, who find it a tasty meal. An ounce of prevention goes a long way toward protecting your wool items from these unwanted pests.

- Clean everything before storing your wool clothing for extended periods. If you are storing other out-of-season clothes with your wools, make sure they are clean too. Food stains and invisible body oils attract moths. They might not munch on your unlaunched acrylic shirt, but they’re sure to find your very best wool jacket hanging right alongside it. Dry cleaning will kill and remove any moth eggs and larvae. Laundering (if appropriate) also removes them from wools.
- Store clean clothing and blankets in airtight bags or containers. Fold lightweight, delicate, or stretchy knits, adding tissue paper between folds to prevent creases.
For added protection, use mothballs or moth crystals as directed on the package. Don’t put them directly on the wool; suspend them in small, loosely woven cloth bags above the garments. After storage, air clothing outside to remove any residual mothball odor.

To help retain shape, tuck tissue paper inside wool hats and store in a hatbox.

If you find signs of insect damage, clean garments hanging near by to remove remaining eggs and larvae; be sure to vacuum the closet. Check garments periodically to make sure you are rid of the larvae and brush clothes regularly during the wearing season.

### Sewing With Wool

Pendleton has a history of encouraging home sewing and offering fine wool yardage.

Wool is easy to tailor because it responds to heat and steam. It is easy to shape darts and curved seams, and ease out excess fullness when setting in sleeves. The usually thicker, fuzzier surface of woolen fabrics hides minor sewing imperfections and it’s easy to set a crease in smooth-surfaced worsteds.

**Preparation, Cutting, and Sewing Tips**

- Pendleton wool fabrics have been sponged or preshrunk. Steaming by a dry cleaner or with a home steamer will remove any residual shrinkage. To steam at home, work on a large, flat, padded surface. Steam the fabric and allow it to relax and dry before moving it. If the entire piece won’t fit on the work surface, steam a section and allow to dry completely before rearranging and steaming the remainder.

- When sewing with a plaid, be sure to choose a pattern that is appropriate for plaids. Check the “Suggested Fabrics” list on the pattern envelope. Buy enough fabric so you can match the lines from one garment section to the next. In general, add the length of one full plaid pattern to each yard of fabric required.

- Fusible interfacings are an excellent choice for tailored wool garments. Test first on a scrap to choose the best one for your fabric.

- For less bulk and smoother edges, grade or layer the seam allowances—such as in collars or front facings. Also, trim seams to 1/4” on turned-up hem allowances.

### Press Wool as You Sew

Careful pressing is the key to success. Don’t rush; underpressing makes your wool garment look homemade. Overpressing results in seam imprints, iron shine, or even scorching.

---

**Cedar Alert**

Contrary to popular belief, the best defense against moths and other wool-eating insects is not cedar. Cedar oil in closets and chests may repel moths, but only when the odor is strong. It won’t stop them dead in their tracks. That goes for herbal sachets and other products that rely on a fragrance to repel insects.
You'll need a few special tools:

- A steam iron, preferably with a “shot of steam” feature for adequate moisture to set seams and creases and mold in shape.
- A tailor’s ham for pressing curved, shaped areas such as collars and lapels and for molding darts to fit your shape.
- A seam roll for pressing seams open without making visible seam edge impressions through to the right side of the garment.
- A point presser for getting into collar corners and hard-to-reach places.
- A clapper or pounding block to force steam into wool after pressing to help flatten seams and edges.
- A press cloth, preferably wool, for pressing on the right side.

For best results and a professionally pressed garment:

- First, press all seams flat, then press open over a seam roll or a rolled terry cloth towel, using the tip of the iron along the seam line. Tuck a folded strip of white paper under seam and hem edges to avoid imprints.
- Avoid press shine and other surface damage by using a press cloth between the steam iron and the garment right side.
- Use an up and down pressing motion rather than sliding the iron back and forth; press lightly.
- Press darts and curved seams over a curve on a pressing ham to shape the garment.
- Set the press with a clapper. Steam press, then replace the iron with the wooden clapper and apply pressure to force the steam into the fibers. The wood will help cool the new shape into the fabric.
- When pressing napped fabrics, place a piece of the same fabric or a thick terry cloth towel on the ironing board to prevent crushing the nap.