



## ALPACA



To find out more about fiber choices and how they relate to the four heaviest environmental impacts in the fashion industry, please see the Clean By Design website: [www.nrdc.org/cleanbydesign](http://www.nrdc.org/cleanbydesign)



# Alpaca: A Soft, Warm Fiber With A Better Ecological "Padprint"

There are two types of alpacas: the Huacaya and Suri, both have fleece that is soft and luxurious and usable for textiles

- Most alpaca fleece is from Huacaya, which have a shorter, denser, fuzzy, tight-crimp fleece, and the fiber is similar to soft Merino sheep (95% of all alpaca fleece)
- Suri alpacas have a mop-like, straight, long fleece that hangs down off their back and stomach, and the fiber is similar to fine angora

### Alpaca herds are easy on the land and promote a sustainable habitat

- Their feet do not disturb grass root systems, because they have a soft pad similar to that of a dog
- They do not live in a fragile ecology
- They do not destroy root systems or land when grazing, but rather trap grass gently in their mouth without pulling from the root
- They consume a small amount of water (compared to goats)
- Their waste can easily be used as fertilizer

### Low micron count (highest quality) alpaca hair can substitute for cashmere

- You can confirm the micron count and consistency of the fiber to ensure quality  
Request this information down the supply chain- certainly the spinner knows this information in order to spin the correct size yarn
- To gain extra softness and consistently long fiber length, silk or lyocell are also blended with alpaca

**We recommend using fine alpaca fiber as a substitute for cashmere, and to explore the different micron qualities for various textures and end use.**

**For detailed information on Alpaca, please see our in-depth report and citations to research sources.**