

The burn test for yarn content. Use a candle flame so that your hands are free, and always use tweezers to hold the yarn sample. Keep some water close by and avoid inhaling the smoke.

Fibre	Moving towards the flame	Whilst in the flame	When leaving the flame	Smells like	Ash/residue
Wool or hair	Withdraws from the flame	Melts then burns	Burns poorly	Burned hair or feathers	Black, brittle, easy to crush
Silk	Withdraws from the flame	Melts then burns	Burns poorly, may splutter	Burned hair or feathers	Black, brittle, easy to crush
Cotton	Burns readily and immediately	Rapid combustion	Smoulders and glows, some smoke	Burning paper	Pale grey, soft and reduced in size
Linen Jute Hemp	Burns readily and immediately	Rapid combustion	Continues to burn	Burning paper	Grey, soft and fine
Viscose rayon	Burns immediately	Burns	Continues to burn	Burning paper	Only a small

					amount, sometimes none
Acetate	Melts, withdraws from flame	Melts and then burns	Melts away from the flame	Tangy, vinegar-like	Black, crinkly, hard and brittle
Acrylic	Melts and starts to burn before it reaches the flame	Melts and then burns	Burns and gutters	Burning meat	Black, crinkly and hard
Nylon	Withdraws, melts away from flame	Melts and then burns, will also drip so be careful	Burns poorly	Rather like celery	Brown/grey, round bead, hard
Polyester	Melts, withdraws from flame	Melts and then burns	Continues to burn, make black sooty residue	Delicate, sweet, like burning resin	Black, round and hard