GRADES OF WOOL

Wool grades are classifications based on the diameter of wool fibers, with finer grades having smaller diameters and coarser grades having larger diameters. There are several grading systems. The American Blood system was originally based on the proportion of Merino blood in the sheep. It now broadly describes fiber diameter. Grades are fine, ½ blood, ⅜ blood, ¼ blood, low ¼ blood, common, and braid. The Spinning Count System is based on the number of 560-yard hanks of yarn that can be spun from one pound of wool top. Higher numbers (e.g., 80s, 70s) indicate finer wool. The micron system is the most precise method of grading, as it is the actual measurement of the wool fibers in microns. A micron is one millionth of a meter or about 0.000039 inches.

Fine, 64s

Medium, 54s

Coarse, 36s

Type of wool	Blood system	Spinning count	Micron, μ	BREEDS
Fine	Fine	> 80s	Under 17.70	Merino
		80s	17.70-19.14	Merino
		70s	19.15-20.59	Merino, Rambouillet
		64s	20.60-22.04	Merino, Rambouillet, Targhee
Medium	½ blood	62s	22.05-23.49	Rambouillet, Targhee, Columbia
		60s	23.50-24.94	Rambouillet, Targhee, Columbia, Finnsheep, Polypay
	⅜ blood	58s	24.95-26.39	Targhee, Columbia, Finnsheep, Polypay, Corriedale, Montadale, Tunis
		56s	26.40-27.84	Columbia, Finnsheep, Polypay, Corriedale, Montadale, Tunis
	¼ blood	54s	27.85-29.29	Columbia, Finnsheep, Polypay, Corriedale, Montadale, Tunis, Dorset
		50s	29.30-30.99	Finnsheep, Polypay, Corriedale, Montadale, Tunis, Dorset, Southdown
Coarse	Low ¼	48s	31.00-32.69	Corriedale, Montadale, Tunis, Dorset, Southdown, Shropshire, Gulf Coast Native, Hampshire, Suffolk, Texel
		46s	32.70-34.39	Dorset, Southdown, Shropshire, Gulf Coast Native, Hampshire, Suffolk, Texel, Cheviot
	Common	44s	34.40-36.19	Shropshire, Gulf Coast Native, Hampshire, Suffolk, Texel, Cheviot, Oxford
Very coarse	Braid	40s	36.20-38.09	Oxford, Coopworth, Romney, Border Leicester
	Braid	36s	38.10-40.20	Coopworth, Romney, Border Leicester, Lincoln
	Braid	< 36s	Over 40.20	Lincoln, Scottish Blackface

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