

Notes on Fiber Analysis

Small remnants can be obtained from fabric stores and torn apart. These are inexpensive and if the fibers are stored in a plastic bag, one remnant can be used for a long time. You need to be careful when you get the remnants at the stores because so many of the fabrics are made of blends of man-made and natural fibers.

One of the best web sites I have found on the subject of fibers is done by the Sheep Growers Association: <http://www.sheepusa.org/about/index.shtml>. Of course it is all about wool, but does discuss many of the properties of fabrics.

Spandex will expand to 54 times its original size.

Animal fibers – silk and wool will dissolve in Bleach. In a burn test wool smells like burning hair. Wool also has short fibers

Cotton will not dissolve in bleach, has short fibers, and turns black and burns, but does not smell in a burn test

Other man-made fibers melt when placed near, but not in a flame.