

# Jacob (American)

The origins of Jacob sheep are mysterious, and these animals have had many names over the years: among others, they've been called Spanish sheep, as well as Piebald, Pied, and Spotted sheep. Their spots and horns—which both rams and ewes grow—are distinctive. Their clearly defined spots can be brown, black, or a mid-tone in either gray or soft brown known as *lilac*.

Jacob fleeces cover a wide range of textural options, from moderately fine and next-to-skin quality to relatively coarse and sturdy. Most of the fiber falls into the middle of that spread, making it a versatile choice for fabrics that need to sustain a lot of wear while remaining pleasant to the touch. Because Jacobs are an old breed, there may be a tiny amount of kemp (short, brittle fiber) in the haunch area. It can, of



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course, be sorted out.

British Jacobs have been bred to be larger and faster-growing than the American breed, and in the process their wool seems to

have changed texture somewhat as well. The smaller American Jacobs, and their fleeces, more closely resemble the Jacob's characteristics from previous centuries.

<b>Fleece weight</b>	3–6 pounds (1.5–2.5 kg), or a bit more; yield 50–65 percent.
<b>Staple length</b>	3–7 inches (7.5–18 cm), 3–6 inches (7.5–15 cm).
<b>Fiber diameters</b>	Mostly 25–35 microns, and even though this is a wide range, some may be finer and some coarser.
<b>Lock characteristics</b>	Single-coated. Slightly pointed tips on jumbled locks with moderate crimp and some luster. The different colors in a single fleece are likely to have different lengths and textures, although pronounced variation is called a quilted fleece and is not considered a good thing. There may be some kemp.
<b>Natural colors</b>	White, black, brown-black, and a color called lilac that is a soft gray or brown.



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