

## Unicorn Fibre Wash and Fibre Rinse

The following fibre washing (scouring\*) suggestions for fibre hobbyists are for less waxy fibres such as Alpaca, Cashmere, Bison, Qiviut and Angora. Please consider trying **Unicorn Power Scour** for fibre with heavier burdens of grease, wax and suint found in sheep and goat fibres. Refer to the Power Scour and Fibre Rinse sheet for further scouring information.

(\*Scouring is a term used in the commercial fibre industry loosely defined as washing in hot soapy water several times, followed by thorough rinsing and drying. Scouring removes the natural grease in the fibre, the suint or body excretions, dirt and dust and prepares the fibre for further processing.)

### General guidelines

Use lower temperatures, 40° - 50°C (104 - 122°F), for fibres such as (Cashmere, Alpaca, Bison etc.)

Use higher temperatures, 50° - 55°C (122 - 131°F), for fibres burdened with excessive amounts of soils or consider using Unicorn Power Scour.

### Fibre washing

1. Add approximately 1/2 oz. of Unicorn Fibre Wash to 2 gallons of water (hot, yet comfortable to the hand). Swirl water to incorporate Fibre Wash into the water.
2. Loosely fill a garment bag with fibre.
3. Fully submerge garment bag into the washing bath (until no air bubbles surface.)
4. Let soak for 10 minutes.
5. Very *gently* lift garment bag from the bath and *gently* squeeze excess dirty water from garment bag and set aside.
6. Drain dirty water and repeat steps 1-5 one to three more times if necessary.

### FINAL Fibre rinsing

1. Add 1 oz. of **Unicorn Fibre Rinse** to 2 gallons of lukewarm water.
2. Swirl water to incorporate Fibre Rinse into the water.
3. Fully submerge garment bag containing fibre into the warm rinse bath.
4. Let soak for 5 minutes.
5. Very *gently* lift garment bag from the bath and *gently* squeeze excess water from garment bag and set aside.
6. Drain dirty water and repeat steps 1-5 if necessary.

**Note** \*To maximize the bonding of dyes to fibre, rinse as above without adding Unicorn Fibre Rinse. Finish up the dyeing process with a final rinse using Unicorn Fibre Rinse.

### Fibre drying

1. To extract as much excess water as possible, you may put the garment bag into a washing machine along with a few items (such as clean, old blue jeans or towels) to balance the load.
2. Set machine on *spin cycle only* - to extract excess water without *felting* the fibre.
3. Carefully, remove clean fibre from garment bag and evenly distribute on a drying rack (a mesh sweater drying rack is a good choice).
4. Periodically (3 to 4 times a day) rotate fibre from the bottom to the top to encourage even drying.

Unicorn Fibre Wash, Fibre Rinse are biodegradable, earth friendly professional grade products that contain no phosphates, enzymes or fillers.

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