

ALPACA FLEECE IN BEDDING

Part 2



Alpaca fleece ... Fibre of the Gods

Alpacas originate from the Alto Plano (high plains) of the Andes mountains in South America which are over 4,000 metres high and have extreme climatic variations, with very hot summer days and very cold winter nights.

Over thousands of years, alpacas have adapted well to these harsh climatic conditions especially in regards to the evolution of their "double fleece" - alpacas have an inner layer of ultra soft, hollow fibres next to the animals skin to warm them and a heavier outer layer of guard hairs to protect the alpacas from the extreme weather and high altitude conditions.

An alpacas inner fleece is exceptionally soft and light weight with excellent thermal properties. Natural and pure, chemical free, alpaca fleece is amongst the rarest natural fibres in the world.

The outer alpaca fibres, guard hairs, are characterized by their high micron (thickness) and have little crimp; neither being desirable in bedding products. If guard fibres are included in bedding quilts, they dramatically add weight, reduce the softness of the quilt and are the primary cause of "fibre migration" where the alpaca guard fibres can migrate through the outer quilt cover.

To optimize the unique features of alpaca fleece, and to eliminate the potential of fibre migration in alpaca quilts, Kelly & Windsor uses a combination of world class experience, modern processing techniques, export quality raw materials and innovative designs to manufacture Australia's finest alpaca quilt collections.

MicroCombed ... the essential difference



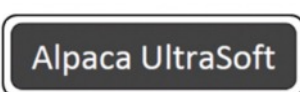
After shearing of an alpaca the soft inner fleece and the coarse outer guard hairs are intermingled and Kelly & Windsor uses a proprietary MicroCombed process to separate these two fibres. This is a difficult and slow process but essential to the softness, loft and performance of an alpaca quilt.

Superfine sateen fabrics ... softness and exquisite feel

Kelly & Windsor use only an exclusive range of the highest quality superfine cotton and bamboo/cotton blend fabrics as the outer cover casing made with very fine yarns and woven in a high thread count sateen construction which enhances the quilts luxurious softness, handle and drape.

UltraSoft ... an innovation in quilt design

A unique and new seamless quilting design, whereby the filling fibres are internally stitched, to prevent movement of the fibre filling and eliminating potential fibre migration but also significantly improving the warmth, feel and appearance of a Kelly & Windsor alpaca quilt.



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