



# WOOLGATHERER CARDING MILL

## QUALITY ASSURANCE

### Why choose Woolgatherer Wool?

#### GOTS Certified Organic Wool:

Woolgatherer is a GOTS (Global Organic Textile Standard) Certified Organic producer and handler through Oregon Tilth. This is an extensive process that is proven by tracking organic products, cleaning, and no use of any non-organic materials from the farm to your product. This all starts at the farm where the farmers adhere to the GOTS standards for three years before they can start producing any organic products. After the wool is sheared it is assigned a Lot number where we start tracking every process to verify the organic process was followed. Next it is cleaned with an organic soap. Then Woolgatherer receives the wool. We ensure and maintain its quality by having a dedicated holding area for only organic products. This holding area prevents any non-organic cross contamination. In general Woolgatherer does not warehouse or run any non natural fibers like polyester or rayon. The prepping of the mill for running organic is a two day process where we stop production and have a team of cleaners remove any unwanted materials. This is an extremely thorough cleaning process where we remove any and all other fibers before we run our organic wool. We then run the wool through a unique series of machines that comb and fluff the wool and remove any remaining vegetable matter.

- **DEDICATED HOLDING AREAS FOR ORGANIC WOOL**
- **DOES NOT USE ANY CHEMICALS FOR CLEANING**
- **DOES NOT WAREHOUSE OR PRODUCE ANY MAN-MADE FIBERS**
- **VERIFIES THE WOOLGATHERERS PROCESS BY TESTING FOR MOLD, HEAVY METALS, PESTICIDE AND HERBICIDE ONCE A YEAR**
- **WOOLGATHERER WOOL HAS NEVER TESTED POSITIVE FOR ANY MOLD, HEAVY METALS, PESTICIDE OR HERBICIDE.**
- **HAVE SUCCESSFULLY PASSED OEKO STANDARD 100 TEST**
- **ALL WOOL GETS CORE TESTED. THIS TESTS FOR FIBER VARIATION, LENGTH, MICRON, AND VEGGIE MATTER**
- **MADE IN THE USA**
- **THREE BREAKER CARDING MILL EXTENSIVELY CLEANS THE WOOL**

#### Premium Eco Wool®

For our trade marked Premium Eco Wool® we do much of the same steps as organic but we use local family ran farms. We will assign them Lot numbers, use only biodegradable mild soap and run it through the same cleaning process. This ensures the highest quality local products.

#### Common Industry Practices That We Oppose

##### Guaranteed Purity With Integrity!

- **Bleaching:** In order to get the purest whites and brightest colors, most wool fibers are bleached and dyed. Our batting is the color of natural white wool.
- **Harmful Shearing:** We work with highly skilled shearing crews to make this process as quick and harmless as possible.
- **Dipping:** At many farms all sheep are subject to a bath in a pesticide solution. We recommend a more holistic approach.
- **Overgrazing:** In addition to harming the land, overgrazing lowers overall wool quality. More invasive plants begin to grow and can increase the amount of vegetable matter in the wool.
- **Mulesing:** Cutting patches of skin off sheep (to discourage infection and flies from laying eggs in the folds) is used primarily with Australian Merino sheep. None of our growers practice this method.
- **Carbonizing:** Wool fibers are dipped in strong acids to dissolve residual vegetable matter.
- **Chemical Crimping:** Carbonizing can leave wool fibers unnaturally straightened and the fibers require a chemical "perm" to regain their coiled, crimped structure.



Supporting our customers with a pro-active philosophy towards ensuring only pure and natural products are brought to the market. Woolgatherer Carding Mill takes the extra step by testing all of our products through the nations leading Toxicology Laboratory for animals, on an annual basis. This tests for any pesticide, herbicide and heavy metals such as arsenic. Also, we test for mold using an independent third party company. Test results are made available to all customers upon request.

