The Border Mill

Sheep wool processing charges from August 2023

We base our charges on the actual weight of your fleece remaining at different stages of the process as we turn it into yarn, as detailed overleaf. We've summarised below the price per kg incoming weight (the weight of fleece you send to us for processing) based on an average 60% return rate (how much finished yarn you get back as a proportion of the start weight); but the return rates can vary from 45-70% depending on the breed of sheep. For example, 'character' fleeces (e.g. Hebridean, Herdwick, Valais) can produce lovely yarns, but the return rates are usually lower due to the amount of grease, coarser fibre and debris removed during processing.

There's a Ready Reckoner on our website which you can use to estimate the return rate and cost for your fibre, but this can vary considerably even within a breed depending on the quality and condition of the fleece. Please note that we can't process fleece with skin flakes; and please do sort through the fleece before sending it to us to remove any clumps of poo and any excessively dirty or coarse fibre.

Our experience has shown that all wools benefit from fibre separating (also sometimes called 'dehairing') before carding – Wensleydale and other longwools need this to open up the staples, as do dyed fleeces; others to remove guard hairs or vegetable matter; or to break up clumps or matted tips – so this is now built into the pricing.

Yarn type Costs for yarn on cone, excluding VAT and delivery	Average cost <i>per kg</i> <i>incoming weight</i> assuming 60% return	Notes	
Chunky (3 or 4 plies, 80-100m/100g)	£64.00	There is a minimum charge of £100 + VAT per batch, which equates to c. 2 kg	
Aran (4 plies, 100-150m/100g)	£66.00		
Light Aran (2 thick plies, 150-200m/100g)	£68.00	incoming weight for fleece to be spun into yarn NB: depending on the type and quality of fibre, it may not be possible to spin very fine yarns. The length per 100g will also vary by breed (e.g. yarns from longwools tend to be heavier for the	
Double knitting (3 plies, 150-200m/100g)	£70.00		
Light DK (3 plies, 200-250m/100g)	£72.00		
4 ply (2 plies, c. 250-300m/100g)	£74.00		
Light 4 ply (2 plies, c. 300-350m/100g)	£78.00		
2 ply (2 plies, c. 350-400m/100g)	£84.00	same gauge)	
Rovings			
Rovings (washed and carded fibre) – supplied loose in bags of c. 500g)	£37.00	£100 minimum equates to c. 4 kg start weight	

Please note: prices exclude VAT and delivery (see overleaf)

Additional charges			
Sorting (including poo removal!)	£48.00	per hour	
Tweed and barberpole blends	£16.00	per batch	
Finishing as 100g balls or skeins	£10.00		
Labels for 100g balls or skeins	£10.00		
Finishing as 50g balls or skeins	£20.00	per kg finish weight	
Labels for 50g balls or skeins	£20.00		
Tying 100g skeins for dyeing	£8.00		
Tying 50g skeins for dyeing	£16.00		
Dyeing fleece or yarn	£48.00	per kg, minimum 500g	

Here's how we calculate the charge for your fleece, based on the actual weight of fleece remaining after each stage.

Delivery charges

Packaging & Delivery Charges for return of your yarn		
Up to 2 kg	£18.00	
Up to 5 kg	£21.00	
Up to 10 kg	£24.00	
Up to 15 kg	£27.00	
Up to 20 kg	£30.00	
Up to 25 kg	£33.00	
Up to 30 kg	£36.00	

Please note: All prices exclude VAT

Deposits

We ask a deposit of ± 10.00 per kg for new customers to book a processing slot for 10 kg or more, and for all customers making a booking for 20 kg or more. We'll invoice you for the deposit (if applicable) on receipt of your booking form. This will be deducted from your invoice for fleece processing when your order is complete, but is non-refundable in the event of cancellation.

