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### **Are natural fabrics better than man-made fabrics?**

There are four natural fibres and everything else is man-made. Our natural fabrics are silk, cotton, wool and linen. You will see thousands of different combinations of fabric types and these will consist of natural/natural mix, natural/man-made mix or a man-made/ man-made mix with some fabrics being 100% standalone such as linen which is a natural or 100% polyester which is a man-made fabric. It is very important that you get the right fabric for the project that you are going to create, which will give the correct weight, the correct feel and possibly the most critical, the correct look. If you get these factors right then you will create a stunning garment, if one factor out of the three is wrong, the results can be disastrous.

So to the main question, are natural fabrics better than man-made fabrics?, well the answer is simple, no they are not as some man-made fabrics serve a purpose for a particular garment that natural fabrics can not. For example, if you wanted to create an outfit to go cycling in then the best choice is stretch lycra because it will stretch with the body and can be very figure hugging without any discomfort at all in fact lycra is very comfortable when it comes to cycling or general sports. If you were to make a cycling outfit out of wool, it would be uncomfortable next to the skin and most likely your body would overheat and possibly you would faint which completely defeats the object. Besides all that your outfit would be very uncomfortable and impractical so in this case the man-made fabric wins every time. If you were going to make a nice two piece suit because you are going to attend a wedding, then a nice wool worsted suit would be a fine choice as the outfit will be very comfortable to wear and will make you look very glamorous. So in this case the tables have turned and wool wins every time over the lycra.

### **A tailors last word**

So as you can see from the paragraph above, natural fibres are excellent for some tasks and man-made fabrics are perfect for others and one is not necessarily better than the other. Always stick to the fabric which is best used for a specific garment and with this knowledge in mind you will be able to create some fantastic garments.

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