

WASTE TEXTILE TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Definitions of some terms special to the rag and low woollen trades are given below. The brief list is far from including all terms which might not be readily understood elsewhere, as that would also range from slang to dialect. The list does not include terms general to the woollen trade.

Alpacas - Rags having a bright lustrous surface made from alpaca, mohair or lustrous wool sometimes made with cotton warp yarns. Sources are linings, lustrous dress fabrics, knitted garments and overalls etc.

Angolas - Rags comprising some yarns of blends of wool and cotton or cotton warp and woollen weft.

Artificial silk - Rags are made from various rayon fabric .

Asbestos - Mineral fibre found in fireproof suitings, curtains and insulating wrappings. The short fibre makes asbestos cement roof sheets.

Axminster wastes - Wastes produced in the manufacture of Axminster carpets.

Berlins - Fine wool knitted goods e.g. lambswool or botany

Bit-box - A metal or wooden box fitted at the back of the rag machine into which pieces of rag are thrown by the action of the swift.

Burst – A term applied to shoddy or mungo in which the yarns from the rags have been thoroughly disintegrated.

Burnt - Applied to shoddy or mungo, which has been pulled with badly worn teeth and smells of burning wool.

Bitter plate - A metal plate situated immediately above the top of the rag pulling swift to deflect bits of rag into the bit box; adjustable by means of thumbscrews on the top.

Bitter roller - A four to eight bladed or spiked roller fixed near the swift and above the feed rollers of the rag machine; for the purpose of throwing back on to the feed sheet any piece of rag which has passed through the feed rollers.

Bitter slide - A metal plate situated between the swift and the bit box at the back of the rag machine. Adjustable for height by a thumb screw so that more or less material may be thrown from the swift into the bit box, as desired.

Boiling out - (of a dye vessel) The cleaning with chemicals of a dye vessel in preparation to its use for dyeing light colours.

Burrs - Broken pieces of thistle like vegetable matter in raw wool.

Buzzed - Description of a material which has been treated in a hydro extractor to remove excess water.

Buzzer - A hydro extractor, also the workman operating the machine.

Camel hair rags – Rags from dress goods, similar fabrics and dressing gowns etc, which have been made from camel hair; generally soft in handle and dark sand in colour.

Carbonising - The removal of cotton, cotton threads or vegetable fibre from rags either by:

(a) The sulphuric acid method, called the wet process.

(b) The hydrochloric acid gas method called the dry process.

Card waste – It is the fibre thrown as fly waste from the carding machine and also other carding machine waste.

Cheviots - Crisp handling woollen rags of course quality.

Chrome - Bichromate of soda or bichromate of potash used to attach the dyeware to the wool

Chrome - To add chrome to the dye pan for:

(a) The process of mordanting rags with bichromate, to remove any loose dye from the rags. Usually 3% Chrome and 3% DOV and boil ½ hour.

(b) The development of chrome dyes when dyed, using bichromate. Usually half the amount of dye used. Boil for ¾ hour.

Clearer roller - (Garnett machine). A 4 1/2 inch diameter roller fitted underneath the bottom feed roller; for the purpose of keeping it clean which works in contact with the licker-in roller.

Coating waste - A thread waste from the weaving of worsted coatings. Often two-fold and generally of good quality.

Cobbler –

(a) An off shade batch of rags to re-dye.

(b) A small weight of material dyed to correct the shade of a blend.

(c) A small dye vessel suitable for the dyeing of such small lots, or for dyeing samples.

Cobbling - The correction of a dyeing found to be unsatisfactory in shade by the addition of a relatively small amount of dye or chemical.

Cockspur teaser - A machine employed by Scottish users to open and mix fibres.

Copperas – Sometimes called Green Vitriol, ferrous sulphate ($\text{FeSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$). 3% added after hematine and fustic dyeing to fasten the dye. Boiled for 1 hour.

Count - The number denoting the length to which the yarn has been spun in the spinning method used.

Curling machine - The machine used for making small beads of flock.

Delaine - Fine woven woollen or worsted rag from ladies cloth and pyjama cloth.

Devil – Another word for a rag machine.

Dule - As Cockspur (Elland and Sowerby Bridge areas).

Dye cart - A low truck made of open wood laths, used to convey wet material from the dye vessel to the hydro extractor. Used in rag, raw fibre and finished piece processing.

Extracts - The recovered wool from carbonised material, but used by many to denote only that from the wet carbonising process.

Fadge - Any small lot of material, generally used to denote a small lot left over from a blend.

Fearnought - As Cockspur (Huddersfield).

Fan - A device used in various processes such as:

- (a) For the blowing of shoddy under the rag machine to the shoddy box.
- (b) For sucking hot air or gas into the dry carbonising chamber.
- (c) For the removal of dust from the rag shaking machine while the process is proceeding.
- (d) for conveying wool in ducting from point A to point B.

Feed rollers - (in the rag machine) Fluted rollers used to feed rags to the Swift. (in Garnett machine) rollers either fluted or covered with Garnett teeth for feeding fibre to the swift. Both under pressure.

Felts - Rags which have been heavily compressed or milled both woven or un-woven.

Fents - short sound pieces of cloth cut from pieces of cloth.

Flannels - Rags including woven worsted, cotton warp flannels and blankets, usually white or grey.

Flock –

(a) Fibrous, usually short, waste made in cloth milling and raising, often used for blending with other rags in the making of shoddy and mungo.

(b) Small beads of fibres made by treating short fibrous waste in a flock curling machine. Sometimes called nepps or noppes.

Flocks - Rags of various qualities pulled for the purpose of stuffing beds and upholstery.

Fudd - Droppings of short fibres from underneath carding and scribbling machines.

Fustic – A fast yellow dye made from the Maclura Tree grown in the West Indies. Used with Hematine for dyeing black.

Garnett waste - The fibrous material obtained from thread waste which have been treated on a Garnett machine.

Gauge - A tool used for setting feed rollers to the swift on a rag machine or surface rollers to the swift on a Garnett or carding machine.

Grinding - (also pulling). Conversion of rags into fibre.

Hand rags - Household rags composed of mixed qualities as collected by a tatter.

Hard wastes - Yarn wastes that have been high twisted or folded.

Hematine Crystals – Logwood Extract No 1, used in the dyeing of fast blacks. Also see Fustic.

Hollow Swift - A swift with teeth more worn in the middle than at the sides, a fault due to overloading the middle of the feed sheet.

Hosiery wastes - Knitted wastes in the form of thread or clips.

Hydros – Sodium hydrosulphite. Used for stripping dye off wool.

Injector - An air injector fitted to some dye vessel is to assist in lifting the rags during the dyeing process.

Kemps - Wool fibres which are bright in colour, often termed dead hairs, which do not dye to the same shade as ordinary wool fibres.

Knitts – Course knitted rags e.g. shetland

Lacky can – Similar to a watering can, with a T spout to put oil and water on blends.

Lags - Thoroughly seasoned pieces of beech wood into which tempered steel teeth are driven. From 48 to 50 lags are needed to make a 40 inch rag machine diameter swift.

Laps - Broken worsted slivers or wastes from top manufacturing.

Layer on - A rag machine operative, who places rags onto the feed sheet of a rag machine.

Linsey - Rags of various types which contain cotton or linen yarns.

Mechanical dryer - A machine used for the rapid drying of rags and wastes. In many cases wool dryers can be used for drying rags.

Melton – A well milled or felted cloth.

Mungo - Pulled material resulting from the pulling of thick felted rags, of maximum set and thoroughly shrunk goods or small pieces of rag in which the fibres are short.

Mungo Swift - A swift in which the lags have a large number of teeth.

New clips - Cuttings from tailors or wholesale clothiers.

New rags - Rags from pattern bunches, cuttings from new cloths and unworn or unused rags generally.

Nippings - The wastes made from the mule piecer in woollen mule spinning.

Noils - Short fibres removed from wools or hairs during the combing process in the worsted industry.

Nooks - Unfinished piece ends which often have the piece numbers sewn in.

Old rags - Rags which have been worn or used.

Paper-makers blankets - Felted cloth stained with the ink and powder from the paper trade.

Picking - See pulling. The Americans and Canadians usually use this word

Poling - Moving the material in an open wooden dye vessel by the means of a wooden pole; with the object of promoting level dyeing or stripping.

Pulley extractor - A tool specially made for the purpose of removing driving or keyed pulleys from a shaft in an easy and simple manner.

Pulling - The operation of turning rags to a fibrous material on a rag grinding machine.

Pumping - The action of lifting and lowering the weight levers on the feed rollers of the rag machine to release the rags when choking or clogging of the feed roller occurs.

Rag grinder - see layer on.

Rag wool - Shoddy or Mungo.

Raw shoddy - see thready.

Rayons - Rags composed of the various types of rayon fibre such as viscose acetate and casein etc.

Recovered oil - The oil recovered from fudd or seak effluent, by pressing.

Ring waste - Yarn wastes made in the ring spinning process.

Seaming - Cutting out the stitched portion of the woven and knitted garments to remove the cotton or polyester stitching thread.

Serges – Woollen and worsted rags of crossbred quality sorted into several colours e.g. khaki, RAF and naval uniforms.

Shaker – A machine for battering rags to remove dust and dirt from them.

Sheet - A large rectangular bag to hold shoddy usually made of jute. The long edge open. Size approx 4' x 6'.

Shoddy – A fibrous material resulting from pulling knitted or loosely woven rags and waste and some light and thin felts.

Shoddy box - The metal or brick built container into which the shoddy or mungo is blown as it is produced in the rag machine, ready for packing.

Shoddy manure – The short wool fibre waste from rag shaking, which cannot be used into shoddy or mungo. Used as a fertiliser and especially for potatoes where the fibre holds moisture.

Shoddy Swift - One clothed with lags having a comparatively small number of teeth. They can range from 4 rows of 25 teeth to 5 rows of 45 teeth.

Shoppery - Snipping's and the various wastes swept up from the floor of the tailors workroom.

Siddo Rags – The interlining from garments. The best types are composed of horsehair and worsted yarns. Horsehair has to be removed because it brings ends down in the spinning.

Soft rags - All knitted types; also flannels and some light felts.

Specialling – The after treatment of logwood black with a small amount of bichromate to give increased fastness to washing and milling.

State - Recipe used to obtain shade in dyeing.

Stationery dryer - A drying machine consisting of sloping wired table arranged with steam pipes underneath, enclosed in a brick house. Instead of the steam pipes hot air is sometimes blown under the tables by a fan from a battery of steam pipes at one end.

Stripper - (Garnett machine) Small rollers on a B machine; 6" and 3 ½" diam for stripping the fancy and the doffers respectively.

Stripping - The removal of colour, in part, from dyed or natural coloured rags. This can be done with:

(a) 15% stripping salts and 1% Acetic Acid.

(b) 3% Vacolite (zinc formaldehyde sulphonylate) and 3% Acetic Acid. 3% Formaldehyde was added after ½ hour boil to neutralize the Vacolite.

(c) A light strip can be obtained by using 15% Ammonia.

(d) Hydros (Sodium Hydrosulphite) with Acetic acid.

Swift - The largest roller on the Garnett or carding machine and the fastest with the exception of the fancy roller. It works the material in conjunction with the workers, strippers and doffer.

Swift - The large roller on a rag machine. Composed of wooden lags mounted on the framework of a steel drum; the lags being fitted with HT steel teeth.

Tabs - Rough finished pieces of cloth cut from the ends of finished pieces generally including heading and felling marks, also small bits.

Tallic – The term commonly used for soda ash.

Tapping - The release and running to waste of the liquid from a dye vessel. The bung been tapped is made of wood, circular and tapered. The bung is tapped on each side until it fall out with the pressure of the water.

Tatter - A person who tours the streets collecting rags.

Teaser - As Cockspur.

Tops - Combed wool or hair slivers in ball form.

Thready - The term applied to lightly pulled rags and wastes, which could be repulled in a blend.

Thrum waste - The unwoven portion of yarn left at the end of the warp, which is tied or twisted onto the threads of a new warp. Usually a few inches of cloth from the old and the new cloths form part of the thrum.

Unripped rags - Rags which have not been broken up or seamed.

Usable rags - Rags in garment form sold for reweaving.

Whites - Undyed rags.

Wipers - Various mainly cotton rags used for cleaning machinery. Some are used for hand wiping.

Wool Mark – Any fibre waste to be used into a woolmark cloth should not have passed the spindle head.

Workers - Small rollers situated immediately above the swift of the Garnett or carding machine and extending over the full width for the purpose of working, opening and straightening the material passing through the machine. The direction of rotation is generally opposite to that of the swift.