

KHADI – An Indian Fabric

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Introduction

Khadi is handspun, hand-woven natural fiber cloth. Among the greatest achievements of the Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro civilizations was the mastery over hand-spinning and hand-weaving. This was later chosen by Mahatma Gandhi as the symbol of India.

In recent time, its organic and zero carbon footprint, the creation of new designs and products are giving the industry a big push.



Making of Khadi

- The cotton goes through three stages before the yarn reaches the loom.
 - ✓ The first stage is taping, where three rolls of cotton are spun together to form one tight tape of cotton.
 - ✓ Then, two of these tight cotton tapes are spun together to yield a coarse thread. This process is called roaming.
 - ✓ Then the yarn is spun.
- From the spinner, the yarn moves to the bobbin winder, warper, sizer and then to the weaver.

New Technologies

- Today's charkha has six spindles, four more than the traditional one called the Ambar charkhas. The yarn from the six spindles charkhas is usually of 30 counts.
- Along with the improvement in the spinning technology, there are many innovations in pre-spinning techniques and processing of yarn and cloth has also been introduced.
- Semi-automatic looms and power-operated looms have raised productivity.
- Better sizing, drying and dyeing facilities.



Softening of Khadi fabrics

Anionic softener, nonionic softener, and cationic softener each have different chemical composition and characteristics, so they influenced stiffness, drape, crease recovery of cotton khadi fabric in a different way.

Wishing you all a great week ahead!

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arc@resil.com | www.resil.com.