

# Collecting Curly Fiber

## Curly Horse Fiber Collection Areas

1. Ears, forehead, poll, top of neck~ *next to skin items*  
the finest fiber, 'cashmere' of Curlies *Baby soft*
2. Neck & chest~ next finest fiber, *Hats, mittens, scarves*  
good for next to skin items *socks*
3. Belly, flank, between hind legs~ *If coarser good for*  
Good fiber for hats, mittens, etc. *outerwear, vests etc*



4. Top of front legs, sides~ *Outerwear jackets, etc*  
Outerwear, crafts, vests, ponchos, etc
5. Back, rump, top of back legs~ *Saddle blankets, rugs*  
Outerwear and rug yarn, usually  
the coarsest hair.

Depending on the micron count, some Curlies will have finer hair in all areas. Micron count can range from 29 all the way up to 80's.

**Each Curly will vary in fiber fineness**

Curly Fiber Quality varies from the area of the body it is collected from



The finest curly fiber is found in the area surrounding the ears. Some of this fiber is baby soft & almost always next to skin soft.

Curly horse hair fiber softness will vary from horse to horse. From fiber studies done through the ICHO research dept, we now have a better idea of micron count & curvature measurements from a wide range of curly horses. Curlies fiber diameter can range from high 20's to 70's range. The most desirable spinning fiber is in the 20 to 30's range for next to skin yarn. The 40's range is good for outwear and the 50's and 60's can be used for rug yarn. The 70's range is good for craft use.

What is unique to curly fiber is it has a twist to it as well as curvature. This is a quality found in wool, Suri alpaca and mohair. The twist to the fibers makes it a good fiber for spinning. The shed hair fiber from curlies can look like pin curls or dreadlocks. Curly fiber length can vary from 1 inch to over 3 inches. The fiber is best blended with another spinning fiber to give it strength in the finished yarn. Some of the best blending fibers are alpaca, llama and some wools because they come in natural colors similar to curly horse coat colors and gives a naturally colored yarn.

