

I. There are two types of fibres – One is natural fibres which are obtained from natural sources e.g. Cotton, silk, wool and other is synthetic fibres which are man-made for example – rayon, nylon, acrylic etc.

II. A Synthetic Fibre is a chain of small units of chemical substance joined together. Many such single units combine to form single unit called Polymer.

III. Types of Synthetic Fibre

1. Rayon- Rayon is synthesized from wood pulp. Rayon resembles silk, so it is also known as artificial silk. Rayon can be dyed in different colours and is much cheaper than silk.
2. Nylon- Nylon was first commercially synthesized fibre. Nylon is synthesized from coal, water and air. Nylon is very strong and its fabric is like silk.
3. Polyester- Polyester, one of the most popular man-made fibres. It is made of repeating unit of a chemical called ester. It is widely used to make clothes.
4. Acrylic- Acrylic is a man-made fibre. Acrylic is known as artificial wool or synthetic wool because it resembles wool. Acrylic is cheaper than natural wool and can be dyed in various colour. This makes acrylic is very popular among other fabrics.

IV. Characteristics of Synthetic Fibres

- Synthetic fibres are cheaper than natural fibre.
- Synthetic fibres are stronger than natural fibre.
- Synthetic fibres are more durable than natural fibre.
- Synthetic fabrics are dried up in less time.
- Synthetic fibres are easy to maintain and wash.

V. Plastics

Plastic is a polymer that can be recycled, coloured, reused, mould or drawn into wires or various other shapes. Units of some plastics have linear arrangement

