



## The Facts About Merino Wool By ioMerino

Let's be honest, there are all kinds of fabrics out there, and some are actually pretty good. For certain things. Silk, for instance, is excellent for fancy underwear, but not so great to climb a mountain in.

Given our name and what we do, of course we're going to say Merino is the best fabric in the world. But that's only because when it comes to certain things, Merino really is the best fabric in the world. Ever. And not just any old Merino, but ours in particular. But more on that later. For now, let's look at the facts.

### **Fact 1. Merino Keeps You Warmer.**

If you've ever seen pictures of the early explorers and adventurers, particularly those who explored the super cold places like the Himalayas or Antarctica such as Edmund Hillary or Australia's own Sir Douglas Mawson, you'll probably have noticed they're wearing wool. Let's just say they, and adventurers all over the world today, didn't end up wearing wool by chance, but rather because it's always been the first choice for surviving in the cold weather. Thank goodness technology has evolved and wool isn't rough or itchy any more as it was back then!

The bottom line is, if you're looking for warm clothing, Merino is the 'go to' fabric for people in the know. The warmth to weight ratio is completely unrivalled, so while the layers often feel thin and lightweight, they deliver a lot more warmth than most other materials, especially when layered with other Merino garments. For instance, we've designed a range that are designed to work together for maximum insulation and heat retention. If you'd like to read more about these high performance layers, [click here](#).

## **Fact 2. Merino is Naturally Breathable & Temperature Regulating.**

As well as being unbelievably warm, Merino is packed with a number of natural performance features that no one has ever been able to replicate. [Click here](#) if you'd like to know more about Merino Vs Synthetics, but for now, let's just say it's one of Mother Nature's many gifts to us.

Arguably, other than being nice and warm, Merino's next most important performance quality is temperature regulation. In simple terms, Merino acts a lot like the insulation in your roof, or the woolen under blanket on your bed. It keeps you warm in the cold weather, and cool in the warm weather. On a cool morning, one Merino layer will keep you warm, but as the temperature rises, it will breathe and temperature regulate enough to help prevent you from overheating - meaning a single layer will work well from cool to warm, or warm to cool. Making it the perfect choice for when there's a chance you'll experience varying temperatures as you go.

## **Fact 3. Merino is Good for the Environment.**

When you buy Merino, not only do you get something that performs the way you want it to, you're doing the planet a favour as well. Which we think you'll agree is pretty important for anyone who's serious about doing the right thing by the environment.

You see, while Merino can be slightly less durable than some synthetics, that's only because it's natural and biodegradable. So it will eventually break down and go back to where it came from - mother nature. And not in 400 trillion years like your fancy synthetic top. We know this isn't the only reason you'll choose Merino, but it's nice to know it is biodegradable and won't be stuffing up the environment you love so much. Even the [Prince of Wales is on board with this one!](#)

## **Fact 4. Merino is Moisture Wicking.**

Without getting too technical about things, the scientific reality is the structure of the Merino wool fibre makes it way better at 'active moisture management' than many synthetics which are basically solid plastic fibers. Merino, on the other hand, has a naturally water repelling exterior (the cuticle) and a water holding (hydrophilic) interior. In plain English, Merino will move sweat and moisture away from your skin and release it as vapor, ultimately helping to keep you more comfortable.

Merino can actually absorb up to 35% of its own weight in moisture! And before you ask, sure, if it's holding 35% of its own weight in moisture, yes, the material does get a little heavier, but it's so lightweight

to start with, you'll still be incredibly comfortable. Even more importantly, it will still stay warm even when it's wet right through and won't ever freeze - even in extreme environments.

## **Fact 5: Merino is Odor Resistant.**

Merino is stink-free. Yes, seriously! You know how earlier we mentioned Merino has a number of natural performance qualities? Well, this is another one of them. We don't do anything weird or add any dodgy chemicals, it's simply thanks to the anti-microbial properties found naturally in Merino.

If you're active, no matter what the temperature, there's a chance you're going to perspire. And if you perspire in regular fabrics, and especially synthetic sports fabrics, there's a very good chance you'll start to smell. Merino, on the other hand, has a natural ability to repel the bacteria that causes the smell which means you'll smell better longer. Something those of you around you will appreciate just as much as, if not more than, you will.

[Check out the ioMerino mandatory thermal layers here.](#)