

The Chemistry of Clothes



Vocabulary for Students

- **Acrylic (fiber):** A synthetic material made from a chemical process that is used to make products like clothing.
- **Chemical reaction:** A process during which one or more substances combine or break apart to form new substances.
- **Molecule:** A neutral particle made up of two or more atoms bonded together.
- **Monomer:** One molecule that makes up the links in a polymer chain.
- **Nonrenewable natural resource:** A natural resource that is consumed faster than it can be replaced naturally.
- **Nylon:** A very strong and elastic synthetic polymer material used to make clothes, rope, plastics, and more.
- **Petroleum:** Liquid fossil fuel that can be transformed into gasoline for cars, diesel oil for trucks and buses, and other fuels that can be used to power things. Petroleum is also made into goods like plastics and synthetic fabrics.
- **Polyester (fiber):** A synthetic material made from a chemical reaction between an acid and an alcohol that is used for making different products, such as fabrics.
- **Polymer:** A large molecule in which many smaller molecules are bonded together.
- **Spandex:** A synthetic material that stretches easily and is made of polyurethane, a type of plastic polymer.
- **Synthetic:** Made artificially through chemical reactions.

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