Burn Chart for Fibers

From The Weaver’s Companion, Interweave Press

Natural Fibers

Wool: Burns slowly in an open flame, self-extinguishes when pulled from the flame

 Smells like burning hair, produces a dark ash

Silk: Burns slowly in an open flame, self-extinguishes when pulled from the flame

 Smells like burning hair, produces a crushable black ash.

Linen: Burns quickly in an open flame, continues to glow when pulled from the flame

 Smells like burning grass, produces a fray, feathery-smooth edge.

Cotton: Burns quickly in an open flame, continues to glow when pulled from the flame

 Smells like burning paper, produces a gray, feathery smooth edge.

Rayon: Burns quickly in an open flame, continues to glow when pulled from the flame

 Smells like burning paper, produces a fray, feathery smooth edge.

Synthetic Fibers

Acetate: Burns and melts in an open flame, continues to burn when pulled from the flame

 Produces a brittle, hard, black bead.

Acrylics: burns and melts at a low temp, gives off toxic fumes

 Melted residue is very hot, produces a brittle, hard, black bead

Modacrylics: Burn very slowly & melt in an open flame, self- extinguish when pulled from flame Produces brittle, hard, black bead

Nylon: Burns slowly and melts in an open flame, self-extinguishes when pulled from the flame

 Produces hard, gray bead

Polyester: burn slowly and melts in an open flame, self-extinguishes when removed from flame

 Produces a hard, black bead