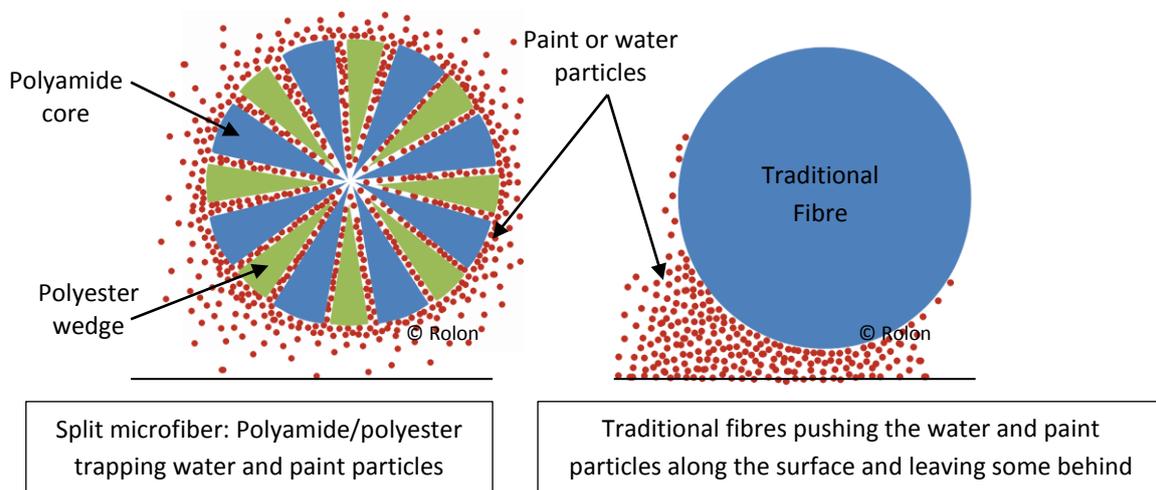


What is microfiber

Microfiber was invented in Japan in the late 50's. The first major commercial success was in Europe during the 90's. The USA didn't start producing microfibers till 2007, leaving Europe as the key area for research and development of microfibers.

Microfibers are made from a combination of at least 2 of the following materials: Polyamide, Polyester, Acrylic and different types of rayon (made from wood pulp).

The pictures below show the unique shape and working of microfiber and the difference with traditional fibres.



The current technology stands at 16 wedges (see left picture). Micro fibre is an incredibly fine fibre: approximately 1/100th the diameter of a human hair and 1/20th the diameter of a strand of silk. Fibre size is measured in *denier*, which is 1 gram stretched over 9 km. Current fibres stretch to 225 km !

Common variations of Microfibers include: 6%-30% polyamide, rest polyester. Rare high quality and expensive microfiber has 50% polyamide and 50% polyester. By varying the basic materials the fabric can be tuned to special requirements like optimise water absorbance or sound insulation, etc.

Things to remember:

Only spilt microfiber where the wedges are actually separated from the star-shaped core) are more productive for painting purposes. If it's not split the microfiber is no better than traditional fibres.

There are many types and qualities often developed for a specific purpose such as sound and temperature insulation, underwear, sportswear, cleaning HQ –lenses, prescription glasses, car-detailing, low-risk area hospital cleaning, kitchen cleaning, bacteria trapping, and of course painting fabrics.

Never wash microfiber together with cotton. It traps the cotton and after washing the microfiber is clogged up. Wash with mild soap at moderate temperatures. Do not dry heat at high temperatures. Above 120 degrees the microfiber gets seriously damaged. Never ever use fabric softener on microfibers.

Never use disinfectants and chemicals like chorine etc. Microfiber is generally not compatible with antibacterial chemicals or cleaning detergents.

They are excellent for low risk areas using damp cloths like household kitchens and toilets. It traps bacteria, grease and grime etc. By reducing the chemicals it is an environmentally friendly and economical cleaning solution. Bacteria normally return in a few hours. (This is good in most cases, since we have 10 hard working bacteria for every one cell in our body.)

Paint Rollers general qualities:

New fabric has a lot of fluff from the production stage. The fabric will be virtually lint free after working-in/cleaning.

Fibres are strong and durable.

Fibres are soft and Split fibres are highly absorbent.

Microfibers can be adjusted with coatings like Teflon (big improvement for paint rollers)

The quality of the basic materials is important for a high quality splitting process.

Northern Europe is the original manufacturing and research area for microfibers particularly for paint rollers. The only Teflon coated paint roller available is from Germany.

For paint rollers 0.7 to 0.9 denier fabric is used. There is no significant difference for the fineness of the fibre. Other qualities are more important: quality of the fibres and manufacturing process, coating and mixture of components.

Good paint rollers fabrics are developed in close cooperation between the fabric manufacturer and paint roller manufacturer. This is particularly the case for our German supplier of high quality Rolon paint rollers. Our rollers are designed for Australian conditions and made to order.

For more information about this article or for the purchase of high quality microfiber rollers contact Ludo from Rolon or visit www.rolon.com.au.

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