

BLANKET, in *Commerce*, a warm woolly sort of stuff, light and loose woven; chiefly used in bedding. The manufacture of blankets is principally confined to Witney in Oxfordshire, where it is advanced to that height, that no other place comes near it. Some attribute a great part of the excellency of the Witney blankets to the absterfive nitrous water of the river Windrush, wherewith they are scoured; others think they rather owe it to a peculiar way of loose spinning, which the people have about that place. Be this as it will, the place has engrossed almost the whole trade of the nation for this commodity; infomuch that the wool fit for it centres here, from the farthermost parts of the kingdom. Plott. *Hist. Oxf.* chap. ix. § 163.

Blankets are made of felt wool, i. e. wool from off sheepskins, which they divide into several sorts.

Of the head wool, and bay wool, they make blankets of twelve, eleven, and ten quarters broad; of the ordinary and middle sort, blankets of eight and seven quarters broad; of the best tail wool, blankets of six quarters broad, commonly called cuts, serving for seamen's hammocks. See *HUCKES*.