Notes on Fiber Analysis

Small remnants can be obtained from fabric stores and torn apart. These are inexpensive and if the fibers are stored in a plastic bag, one remnant can be used for a long time. You need to be careful when you get the remnants at the stores because so many of the fabrics are made of blends of man-made and natural fibers.

One of the best web sites I have found on the subject of fibers is done by the Sheep Growers Association: http://www.sheepusa.org/about/index.shtml. Of course it is all about wool, but does discuss many of the properties of fabrics.

- Spandex will expand to 54 times its original size.
- Animal fibers – silk and wool will dissolve in Bleach. In a burn test wool smells like burning hair. Wool also has short fibers
- Cotton will not dissolve in bleach, has short fibers, and turns black and burns, but does not smell in a burn test
- Other man-made fibers melt when placed near, but not in a flame.