



POLARTEC® PRODUCT TIMELINE

- 1981** – Invention of modern polyester fleece under the Polarfleece® brand / also sold through Patagonia as Synchronia
- 1981-1991** – Polarfleece® continues to evolve to include new finishes like Shearling and Velour. DWR styles are added and additional weights are offered. “Fleece” becomes immensely popular with consumers around the globe and changes the way the world dresses for cold weather
- 1983-1984** – Malden Mills perfects finishing techniques to reduce pilling in fleece fabrics.
- 1991** – Polartec® brand is launched including Polartec® 100, Polartec® 200, Polartec® 300 and Polartec® 1000 which was a windproof laminate product.
- 1993** – Malden Mills introduces post consumer recycled polyester fleece made from recycled plastic soda bottles. Patagonia introduces this fabric to consumers as PCR Synchronia.
- 1994** – Polartec® Power Stretch® and Polartec® Power Dry® are introduced.
- 1995** – Polartec® Windbloc® is introduced (replaces Polartec® 1000).
- 1997** – Polartec® Windbloc® ACT hits the market with a revolutionary new “discontinuous membrane” that allows a tiny amount of air to move through the fabric and wick moisture away.
- 1998** – Polartec® Power Shield® is introduced building on the lamination technology Malden Mills first applied to Polartec® Windbloc® ACT. Arc'teryx creates the Gamma SV jacket out of Polartec® Power Shield and the soft-shell revolution has begun in North America.
- 1999** – Polartec® Thermal Pro® is launched.
- 1999** – Polartec® Wind Pro® is introduced as the new “super fleece” - a unique blend of wind resistance and breathability.
- 2000** – A new line of high loft Polartec® Thermal Pro® fabrics are introduced in Patagonia's Regulator line
- 2000** – Nomex based flame resistant fleece products are developed for the United States Military
- 2000** – Polartec® Hardface® technology is developed and Arc'teryx launches a pullover made of Polartec® Wind Pro® with Hardface® technology. Arc'teryx affectionately refers to Polartec® Hardface® technology as the “secret sauce”.
- 2001** – Polartec® introduces sweater knit Polartec® Thermal Pro® that looks like a classic wool fabric. Arc'teryx introduces the Covert line and it takes off.
- 2002** – Based on the success of the sweater look, Malden Mills engineers focus efforts on creating new textures and looks for Polartec® Thermal Pro® and Polartec® Wind Pro®. These efforts eventually lead to the creation of many textures including corduroy, pin cord, cobble cloth, cable knit sweaters, herringbone and ripstop.
- 2003** – The original 100, 200, and 300 weight fabrics become Polartec® Classic fabrics.
- 2004** – A new type of Polartec® Thermal Pro® high loft fabric is developed to be incredibly soft and sleek for easy layering. Mountain Hardwear launches the Poodle collection with tremendous success.
- 2005** – Polartec® introduces biomimicry fabrics that imitate animal fur and body mapping fabrics that seamlessly vary density, loft and breathability
- 2006** – Wool blend fabrics enter the Polartec® line. Additional “Friction Free” Polartec® Thermal Pro® high loft fabrics are introduced.
- 2007** – Rapid expansion of “green” fabrics including recycled polyester, renewable wool and corn-based PLA. Market acceptance is very positive and new programs launch with Patagonia, REI, LL Bean, and Nau.
- 2007** – Introduction of Polartec Power Shield O2 with Arc'teryx Hercules
- 2008** – Polartec® launches Polartec® Pure Wool®, a collection of Merino Wool with products in its next-to-skin and insulation categories
- 2010** – Polartec® revolutionizes the Soft Shell category once again with Polartec® Power Shield® Pro.



Since revolutionizing the world of outdoor clothing with the invention of fleece in 1981, the engineers at Polartec® have never stopped pushing the limits of fabric technology.

Polartec, LLC is the developer, manufacturer, and marketer of Polartec® performance fabrics. Polartec® products range from lightweight wicking base layers, to insulation layers, to extreme weather protection and are utilized by the best clothing brands in the world. In addition, Polartec® fabrics are used extensively by all branches of the United States military including the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Special Operations Forces.