

# Production of Towels (Local Industry)

Sakaguchi-Sa Towel Co. Ltd.

This Senshu Area (consisting of Kumatori Town, Izumisano City and Sennan City) has had a thriving towel production industry since the 1890s; accordingly, the towels produced here are called “Senshu Towels”.

There are two methods of production, “prior blanching” where blanching is done before production, and “later blanching” where blanching is done after production. <\*1> Senshu Towel employs the later blanching method, whereby the woven towels are blanched and then washed with water, resulting in towels that are clean, shrink-resistant, provide good water absorption and are soft to the touch.

<\*1> The yarn used in towel production is first starched or waxed so as to make it strong and slippery for smoother weaving. Thus, the towel just woven is water repellent. However, going through the blanching process after having been woven, the later blanching method towel is rendered free of starch or wax, and becomes water absorbent.



Towel handkerchiefs with printed Kumatori Town's mascot, “Mejina-chan”

## Production Process

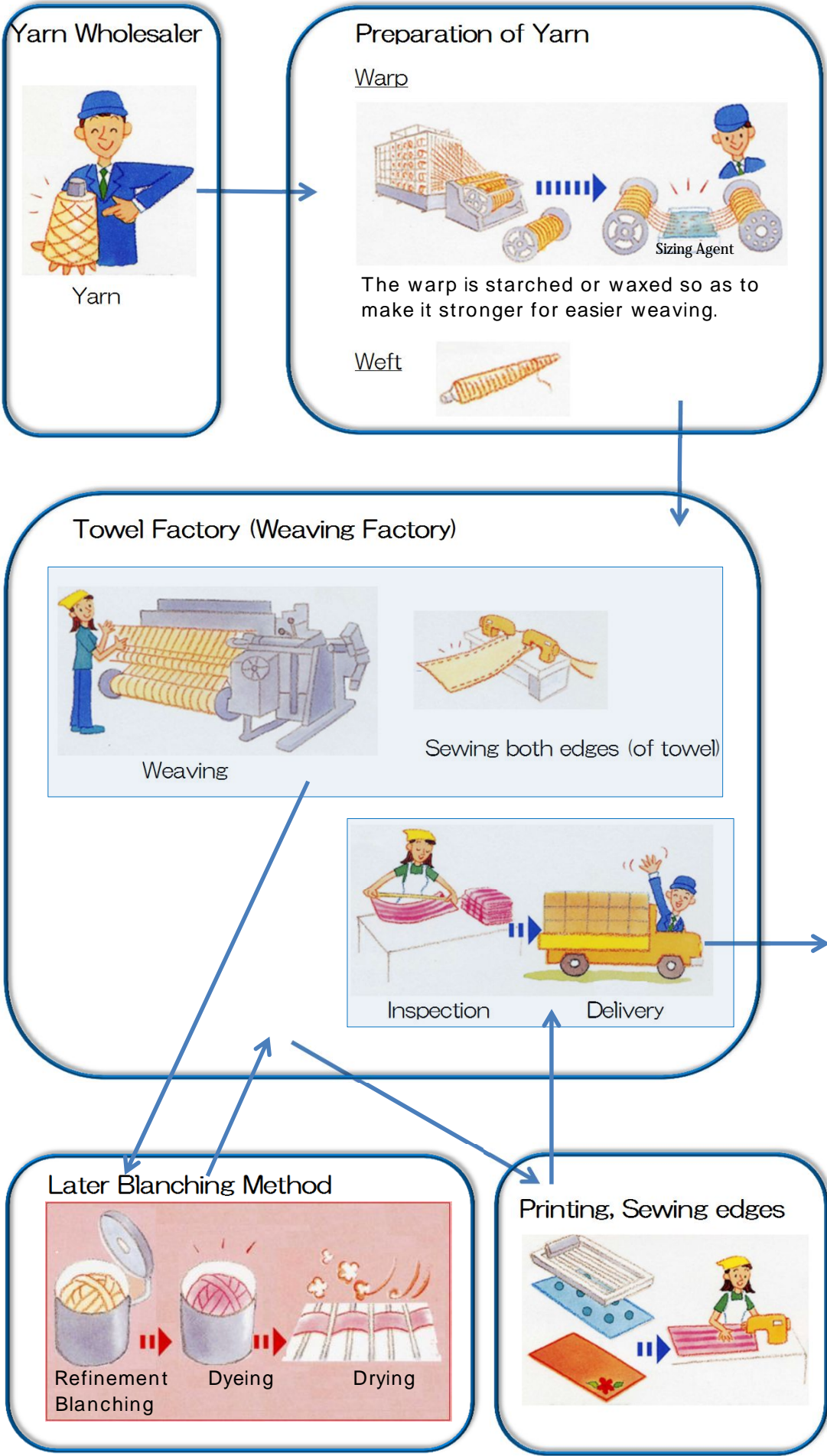
[Towel Production]

- Preparation of Yarn
- Weaving (Towel Weaving)
- Blanching, Dyeing
- Printing/Embroidering, Sewing
- Inspection, Shipping

At the end of these processes, towel production is complete.

# Until towel production is complete.

The following processes framed between broad blue lines are worked out in a factory specializing in them.



## Characteristics of Towel Production

Here in the Senshu Area, all towel production processes are divided among the factories according to their specialized process, and the final complete towel is ready to be shipped from the weaving factory.

Division of work and collaboration among the factories are features of the local towel industry. At present, there are about 100 factories weaving towels, and nearby, there are 400 other factories collaborating to do processes other than weaving; thus 500 factories in total work together for the production of Senshu Towels.

## Towel Factory (Weaving Factory)



Weaving machines inside of factory.



Weaving



Setting/Maintaining Weaving Machines



Sewing both edges of towels

The towel weaving machine weaves the warp (consisting of thousands of the upper and lower parts) with one string of the weft. The speed depends how fast the weft string goes from one side to the other for weaving; the speed is 200-400 times a minute (one dozen towels are woven every 5 minutes).

The mechanics of weaving the warp with a string of the weft at high speed is in common with motor mechanics (turbine technology) of the automobile. The weaving machines made in Japan, Germany and Italy are excellent.

## Products



The main product is towels measuring 35cm x 85cm, which we call "face towels". Upon receiving orders from many corporations, their company names are printed on the towels for gifts to their customers. Moreover, we produce towels of different sizes (hand towels, sports towels, bathroom towels, etc.) in accordance with their orders.

Please contact the following for information about the local towel production.

Kumatori Town Society of Commerce and Industry  
2-9-20, Noda, Kumatori-Town, Sennan-gun,  
Osaka-Pref.,590-0451,JAPAN

Tel: Domestic callers : 072-453-8181

International callers: 81-72-453-8181

Jibashin Corporation (located at Shop Himawari)  
1-10-1, Gomon-Nishi, Kumatori-Town, Sennan-gun,  
Osaka-Pref.,590-0415,JAPAN

Tel: Domestic callers : 072-452-1428

International callers: 81-72-452-1428

Towels are available for sale at Jibashin Corporation.