

TAMPONS

from raw materials to your supermarket shelf

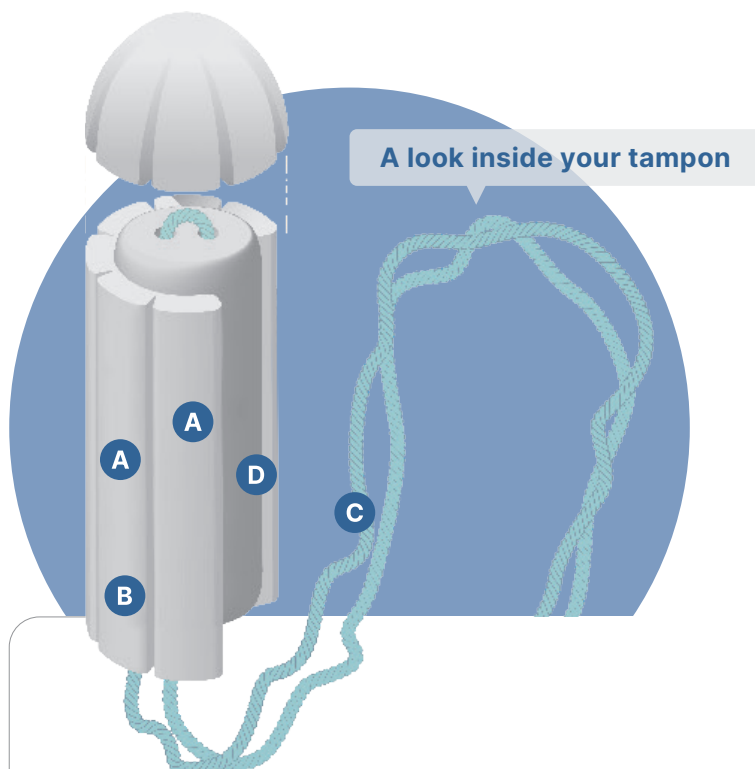


How are they made?

While each brand of tampon will have small differences, tampons are generally manufactured by the steps below.

A brief history of the tampon

Modern tampons have been safely used as a convenient aid by women across the globe since the patenting in the 1930s, but their early forms were used by women as far back as ancient Egypt. On average, a woman might use up to 8,000 tampons during the years where she is menstruating.



- A GROOVES**
Can help the absorbency during use and an even distribution of fluid
- B OUTER LAYER**
Nonwoven (or perforated film) to facilitate insertion and removal of the tampon, keep the tampon fibres intact, and aid the absorption of fluid
- C STRING**
Polyester or cotton (or a mix of these with or without viscose) to help to remove the tampon after use
- D CORE FIBRES**
Viscose, cotton (or a mixture of the two) to absorb menstrual blood



1 RAW MATERIALS

Tampons are made from natural or regenerated fibres made from natural cellulose, such as viscose (sometimes called rayon) or cotton, or a blend of these two fibres. Raw materials are tested for skin sensitisation and irritation.



2 WEB FORMATION

The fibres are mixed and blended and formed into a web. Its thickness, weight, and width can vary depending on the size and type of tampon made.



3 FORMATION OF THE TAMPON

A cover made of nonwovens or a perforated film may be added to the web, which is then rolled, or folded. Before or after this step, a string will be added, knotted and secured to the inner part of the tampon, which is then compressed into shape.



4 APPLICATOR

Tampons can be contained in an applicator which is usually made of plastic or coated cardboard.



5 TESTING

Different tests are carried out on samples taken during the manufacturing process, and on the final tampons to ensure the products comply with high quality and safety standards.



6 PACKAGING

Each tampon is immediately wrapped in a thin plastic film to protect it, and is then transferred to a secondary box, bag or tin before being sent to your local supermarket or store for purchase.