Textiles are one of Bhutan’s most important arts. Each region has distinct weaving traditions and techniques. For example, textiles from eastern Bhutan are especially delicate and resemble fine embroidery.

Working at home, weavers make looms, spin and dye thread, and produce textiles according to traditions passed down through generations. Most weavers use either backstrap or horizontal frame looms. They spin yarn from cotton, wool, yak hair, nettle fiber, and raw and refined silk and mix colorful dyes from locally available vegetables or minerals.

Woven fabrics are often striped and include symbolic images. Brocade techniques using additional weft or warp threads allow weavers to incorporate still more designs. Bhutanese fabrics are so complex, it might take a weaver six months to make a single textile.

The eight-spoked Golden Wheel (khorlo) represents Buddhist teachings and the eight-fold path leading to enlightenment.