

How Silk Is Produced



An adult female silk moth lays about 500 eggs, and then promptly dies.



After about 10 days, the eggs hatch and the larvae spend the next 35 days eating mulberry leaves.



The silkworm spends about five days producing silk and spinning its cocoon of a single, long thread.



The cocoons are boiled to make it easier to unwind the silk and kill the pupae inside. If the silk moths were allowed to hatch, the long silk fibers would be cut.



The cocoons are unwound, and then the individual silk filaments must be reeled together to form a thread large enough for weaving.



The silk thread is cleaned, dyed and woven into fabric.