

OUR GREEN IS TRUE BLUE

Our Mission.

O Ecotextiles is changing the way textiles are made by proving that it's possible to produce luxurious, sensuous fabrics in ways that are non-toxic, ethical and sustainable.

The Hidden Dangers.

Processing textiles is one of the most chemically intensive activities on earth, and the top industrial polluter of clean water. It takes about 500 gallons of water to produce enough fabric to cover just one sofa; and that water can be filled with as much as 20 pounds of chemicals. The fabric on that sofa contains chemical residues that may trigger allergic reactions, asthma, or more serious health problems as they are out-gassed into the air or absorbed through our skin. We're hoping to make a dent in this chemical onslaught by using new, benign processes and encouraging dialog about the implications of our textile choices.

Beyond Organic.

O Ecotextiles has produced a framework for comprehensively judging the environmental impact of fabrics – we don't stop with fiber production. We look at every step of the production, use and end of life issues in each of four areas of concern: toxicity to the environment as well as to our bodies and other living things; carbon footprint and social justice issues.

Intelligent Choices.

Our processing partners avoid any chemicals that are known to cause cancer, birth defects, genetic mutations or which are known endocrine disruptors. All detergents, degreasers, surfactants and soaps are biodegradable or bioeliminable. These strict processing guidelines eliminate the harmful chemical residues in finished products that are absorbed through our skin or lungs.

Baseline Requirements.

O Ecotextiles insists that production partners treat wastewater, paying careful attention to pH levels, temperature of effluent, and COD and BOD levels (these are the water standards – chemical and biochemical oxygen demand - that measure whether the water is safe for aquatic life). In addition, we require our production partners to adhere strictly to basic production standards:

- Use of enzymatic or oxidative de-sizing only, and no petroleum-based surfactants.
- Use of biodegradable detergents, degreasers, surfactants and soaps only.
- Bleaching based on oxygen only (hydrogen peroxide, ozone).
- Prohibited: We maintain a long list of prohibited chemicals and update it. Our prohibitions include halogenated solvents or any organic solvent containing benzene; chlorine containing compounds such as TCP, PCP and sodium hypochlorite; dyestuffs containing heavy metals such as antimony, arsenic, lead, chromium, copper and mercury or AZO colorants; PBDE's or BFR's; formaldehyde; dieldrin and brominated or chlorinated compounds.

We are ardent fair traders and are 100% against sweat shop labor. We will not source products where practices contravene human rights in the workplace. We have made great strides in improving our carbon footprint. Our fibers are fiercely carbon positive. One of our mills is totally carbon neutral – it is wind powered; another is transitioning to totally renewable power.

The Road Ahead.

O Ecotextiles has done much, but there is much to be done. We hope our example, and your support, will inspire others to help us change the way textiles are being made.