



Dunelm Group plc

Preferred Textile Fibre Policy

Introduction

AT DUNELM, WE RECOGNISE THAT IN ORDER TO GIVE OUR CUSTOMERS CHOICE, A RANGE OF TEXTILE FIBRES WILL BE USED IN OUR PRODUCTS.

We believe that 80% of a textile product's carbon or water footprint is determined at design stage and that a high proportion of this footprint is determined by fibre selection. As a responsible retailer, we want to reduce our impact on the environment by specifying designs which use lower impact fibres.

We recognise that we use more cotton than any other fibre and are focusing our efforts in that area, but aim to extend our work in fibres to cover all fibre types, so that our customers can be assured of responsible sourcing across our textile ranges.

Aim

Dunelm Group will aim to specify only lower impact fibres from independently certified sources that reduce carbon and water footprints, [reduce waste and improve worker livelihoods.

Scope

This policy applies to all Dunelm Group companies and their own brand products purchased for resale which are manufactured from textile fibres. In some instances, Dunelm may also require assurances about the textile materials used in third party branded products.

This policy does not apply to products which we purchase for use in our business (and not for sale) or to our Pausa coffee shop products

The policy must be used in conjunction with all current UK, EU and international textile legislation and relevant import and trade regulations.

Policy

- No products shall knowingly contain cotton sourced from Uzbekistan or Turkmenistan. There have been ongoing concerns regarding the use of government backed forced child labour during the cotton-picking season in Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. In line with several other retailers, Dunelm Group have banned the use of both cotton fibre and fabrics from Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in our own brand products. This will remain our position until such time as there is clear independent evidence of a change in the cotton industry in those countries.

- Dunelm will carry out a risk assessment of each textile based product based on the fibre type and country of origin. The risk assessment will direct any following actions.
- Alternatives to conventional textile fibres must be reviewed at time of product selection.
- All lower impact fibres must be verified by Dunelm before products ship.
- Due diligence testing of lower impact fibre for compliance with this policy and relevant legislative requirements will be carried out by Dunelm and 3rd parties with random sampling of paperwork and factory visits along with laboratory tests. Visit and test frequency will depend on the risk assessment and volume of sales.

Material Specific Requirements

Cotton:

In recent years cotton has gained a reputation as a 'dirty crop'. Cotton is grown in a number of different circumstances around the world from small scale farmers cultivating 1 or 2 hectares in Sub Saharan Africa or India to large plantation style farming in US and Australia. Across such a range of farming situations there is a range of productivity and farming practice which taints cotton's image and complicates any attempt to regulate and improve the production of cotton.

Issues that occur in cotton production include over use of water and pesticides, to the detriment of the local environment; use of child labour or forced labour to harvest crops; poverty; false certification of the origin of the cotton to deter traceability.

Dunelm Group aim to source all cotton used in own brand products from sustainable sources by 2025, which guarantee minimal use of water and pesticides, prohibit child and forced labour, and aim to alleviate poverty in small scale farming and help farmers get their children into education. The sustainable cotton standards we will specify will be Organic, Fairtrade, Better Cotton Initiative (BCI), Cotton Made in Africa (CmiA), Cotton Connect REEL and recycled cotton certified to an independently verifiable standard such as Global Recycled Standard (GRS) or the Recycled Content Standard (RCS).

Synthetic Fibres:

Synthetic fibres such as polyester, nylon and acrylic, are made from oil which is a non-renewable source. They also use a high amount of energy during oil extraction and can cause issues when products are disposed of due to their polymer make up.

The Dunelm Group is committed to finding more sustainable options than conventional synthetic fibres and as such are using recycled polyester (RPET) and evaluating bio synthetics as they develop to commercial levels.

Regenerated wood fibres:

Regenerated wood fibres, such as viscose and acetate, are made from wood pulp, which is chemically or mechanically processed into textile fibre.

This process can put areas of woodland at risk from deforestation if not managed properly and the processing of the wood pulp can also lead to high chemical emissions.

The Dunelm Group is committed to reducing the use of damaging fibres through the selection of lower impact options such as mechanically processed regenerated fibres or fibres produced in closed loop processes (e.g. Tencel and Lyocel) and those fibres sourced from sustainably managed forests.

Wool:

Merino Wool must only be sourced from farms using non-mulesing practices. This must be demonstrated with certification from AWEX (Australian Wool Exchange) or from WTB (Wool Testing Bureau South Africa).

We aim to move to fully RWS (Responsible Wool Standard) sources and traceability by 2025.

See also Dunelm Group 's Animal Welfare Policy.

Animal Hair:

No rabbit hair, including angora rabbit hair and no hair from animals reared in cages (e.g. raccoon, fox, squirrel) may be used.

Any animal hair used must be humanely harvested without causing distress to the animal (e.g. cashmere, mohair)

See also Dunelm Group's Animal Welfare Policy.

Leather/Sheepskin:

All animal skins must be by-products of the food industry from conventionally farmed animals. No cow, calf or ox leather from India shall be used and no leather from Bangladesh due to poor tannery processes.

No leather from new born or aborted animals (e.g. karakul, astrakhan, swakara) may be used.

It is our aim to be fully compliant with Leather Working Group standards by 2020.

See also Dunelm Group's Animal Welfare Policy.

Exotic Animals:

Skin and hair from Reptiles, Exotic or Domestic Animals e.g. Snake, Lizard, Crocodile, Ostrich, Cats, Dogs shall not be used.

See also Dunelm Group's Animal Welfare Policy.

Fur:

No real fur may be used. Synthetic material which looks like fur may be used, must be labelled as "Faux Fur" and must have a purchase invoice to clearly show synthetic materials have been sourced for that production.

See also Dunelm Group's Animal Welfare Policy.

Implementation

We recognise that textile fibres are used in a range of products and supply chains across Dunelm Group branded homewares and furniture products. Whilst the absolute requirements outlined above are effective now, we are planning to tighten them so that our products can be certified to recognised standards and are traceable. This will take time to implement across all brands and supply chains. To manage this complexity, we are taking a phased approach as outlined in the table below:

Brand	Cotton	Synthetics	Regenerated wood fibres	Wool
Dunelm	100% cotton to come from sustainable sources by 2025	Care labels, bedding, curtains cushions and throws to be recycled polyester by 2020	Bedding, curtains, cushions and throws to be from certified managed forests and closed loop production by 2027	Filled bedding and rugs to be RWS compliant by 2025
Dorma	100% cotton to come from sustainable sources by 2025	Care labels and fillings to be recycled polyester by 2020	Fillings to be from certified managed forests and closed loop production by 2027	Filled bedding and rugs to be RWS compliant by 2025
Fogarty	100% cotton to come from sustainable sources by 2025	Care labels and fillings to be recycled polyester by 2020	Fillings to be from certified managed forests and closed loop production by 2027	Filled bedding to be RWS compliant by 2025
Worldstores				Filled bedding to be RWS compliant by 2025
Kiddicare				Filled bedding to be RWS compliant by 2025

Note:

Understanding the impact of different fibres:

www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/CBD-Fiber-Selection-FS.pdf

BCI

<http://bettercotton.org/about-better-cotton/better-cotton-standard-system/>

Cotton Made in Africa

<http://www.cottonmadeinafrica.org/en/materials/cmia-standard>

EU Organic Farming standard

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/organic-farming/index_en.htm

USDA organic farming standard

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentidonly=true&contentid=organic-agriculture.html>

GOTS: Global organic textile standard

<http://www.global-standard.org/the-standard.html>

An insider's guide to Cotton and Sustainability, Simon Ferrigno, MCL Global 2012

SCAP

<http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/sustainable-clothing-action-plan-1>

For more information on the impacts of viscose production on forestry:

www.canopystyle.org/assets/The-Hot-Button-Issue-Canopy-Viscose-Report.pdf

CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) is an international agreement which governs the trade in species threatened with extinction.

You can visit their website at <https://www.cites.org/> for further details.

The CITES list can be searched on this website: <https://speciesplus.net/>

The IUCN red list shows the most endangered species on the planet. It is updated annually and the latest list can be found here: <http://www.iucnredlist.org>

Responsible down standard (RDS) is an independent certification standard that covers the breeding, rearing and slaughter of birds as well as the collection of their feather and down. More details can be found here: <http://responsibledown.org>

EDFA (European Down and Feather Association) offers traceability to farm level for feather and down products: <http://www.edfa.eu/en/daunen-und-federn/rueckverfolgbarkeit.html>

Downpass is a traceability standard used in the sourcing of down and feathers. More information about this can be found here: <http://www.downpass.com/en/downpass/standard.html>

Information about the Leather Working group and its audit standard can be found here: <http://www.leatherworkinggroup.com>

The Responsible Wool Standard is an independent standard that addresses the welfare of sheep and the land on which they graze. More information can be found here: <http://responsiblewool.org>