

Green America's Clothing Pocket Guide

Clip this handy guide out, or snap a photo with your cell phone, and take it with you when you shop for new clothing.

FABRICS

Eco-friendly fabrics: Bamboo lyocell • Certified organic soy, cotton, hemp, and linen • Lyocell, a.k.a. TENCEL® • MODAL® with a trademark symbol • SeaCell • Silk VISCOSE® with a trademark symbol

Purchase with caution: Angora • Cashmere • Wool • Conventional hemp • Conventional linen

Avoid these fabrics: Bamboo rayon • Conventional cotton • Small-m modal • Nylon • Polyester • Rayon • Non-organic soybean fiber • Small-v viscose

CERTIFICATIONS

Some clothing manufacturers don't put these on their labels, so check websites or contact the manufacturer and ask questions.



BLUESIGN

Ensures that clothing is not exposed to a list of harmful chemicals throughout the supply chain, from raw materials to finished product.



CERTIFIED ORGANIC

Ensures that the raw materials used to make the clothing were grown without chemical fertilizers and pesticides. However, it doesn't prevent clothing from being coated with toxic finishes.



FAIR TRADE (Fair Trade Certified™, Fair Trade Federation™)

These independent certification and membership systems ensure that workers who grow raw materials or make clothing earn a living wage and labor under healthy conditions.



GREEN BUSINESS NETWORK

Green America screens clothing businesses to ensure a commitment to fair labor, environmental stewardship, use of eco-fabrics, and no toxic dyes or finishes.



GOTS & GOTS ORGANIC

The Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) requires that clothing bearing its regular label contain 70 percent organic fibers, and those bearing the GOTS Organic label be 95 percent organic. Clothing with either label must have no prohibited toxic dyes or finishes, and all suppliers must comply with standards to minimize waste and ensure that workers labor under fair conditions.



OEKO-TEX 100

This independent certification system limits the use of toxins in everything from raw materials to finished clothes.



SA8000

A designation from Social Accountability International (SAI), applied to factories and farms that uphold standards for social responsibility and labor rights.



ZQ MERINO WOOL

Certifies wool from New Zealand farms that meet its standards of animal welfare and environmental sustainability.

UNION-MADE PRIVATE LABELS

Indicate that your clothes were made by workers who were allowed to organize and advocate for better wages and working conditions.