



## SUSTAINABLE TEXTILES – PART XV

REF: TT/ AUG 2022/ WK 2

### Animal welfare in the fashion industry

In sustainable textiles/fashion, besides the health of the people who make the clothes, animals that are impacted by the fashion industry are also considered.

Total ethical fashion considers the wellbeing of all animals, both human and non-human. The aim is to implement ethical standards and to address the challenges being faced by the animals used in these industries. The goal is to get animal ethics and welfare on the agenda in the fashion and lifestyle industries and to qualify these issues on the same level as human rights and environmental issues. People are against wearing clothes manufactured from animals. From mohair\* (**\*Mohair is a fabric or yarn made from the hair of the Angora goat**) hats to shearing jackets to leather shoes, shoppers are avoiding cruel and environmentally toxic items in favor of compassionate and sustainable vegan items.

SHEARLING
Shearling is a skin from a recently shorn sheep or lamb that has been tanned and dressed
It has a suede surface on one side and a clipped fur surface on the other.
Usually the suede side is worn outward

In addition to causing the suffering and deaths animals each year, the production of animal-derived materials—including wool, fur, and leather—contributes to climate change, land devastation, pollution, and water contamination.

Advancements in textiles make earth-friendly vegan materials, far superior to their animal-derived counterparts. The vegan materials available are much lighter, and they are more durable.

The common vegan fabrics are such as cotton and polyester. Clothes and accessories made from hemp, bamboo, and other animal-free materials are now also common. They can also be made from innovative and sustainable materials such as cork, mushrooms, pineapple leaves, apple peels, other fruit waste, or recycled plastics.

**Wool** - There are several concerns regarding animal welfare in the wool industry, including pain and discomfort caused to the sheep by their handling and living conditions. PETA has revealed instances of mistreatment of sheep. Many sheep undergo a painful and largely ineffective procedure. This procedure is used to prevent flystrike\*, which is a common problem mainly among the Australian



sheep's. (**\*Flystrike is a painful and sometimes fatal condition caused by flies laying their eggs on another animal. These hatch into maggots, which eat the flesh of their hosts).**)

Buying wool alternative materials such as certified organic cotton, hemp, linen, and some certified semi-synthetics like Lyocell are gentler on the environment and 100% cruelty-free. There are clothing brands which use non-mulesed or recycled wool. The clothing brands are rated based on their treatment of animals as one of the three key pillars of people, planet, and animals.

**Fur and exotic animal skins** - Animals including rabbits, goats, alpacas, llamas, kangaroos etc are used by the fashion industry. Their fur and skins are used to make various luxurious clothing items. Fur also includes the fibers cashmere and angora, which are sourced from the Cashmere goat and the Angora rabbit. Most of the fur industry's skins come from animals raised in fur farms, where animals are deprived of quality of life. The World Society for the Protection of Animals revealed that many fur producing countries has no animal welfare legislation and protection laws. Fur that is not made in fur farms is obtained either by trapping or killing wild animals.

One of the ethical alternatives to fur is using faux fur. But they are also made from non-renewable, petroleum-based products, including polyester and nylon. Faux fur alternatives derived from recycled or other sustainable materials, like upcycled denim are preferred.

References:

1. <https://link.springer.com/>
2. <https://goodonyou.eco/>
3. <https://www.the-sustainable-fashion-collective.com/>
4. <https://www.sustainyourstyle.org/>
5. <https://www.fespa.com/>

.....To be continued.....

UNSCRAMBLE THE JUMBLE WORDS
SHEAGNLIR
APPINGTR
ROLEPETMU
INASLAM

Last week`s Answers: 1) TECHNOLOGY 2) EXHAUSTION 3) AMMONIUM 4) INDUSTRIAL

**Wishing you a great week ahead!**

Technical Tuesdays is a knowledge sharing initiative by Resil Chemicals Private Limited  
[arc@resil.com](mailto:arc@resil.com) | [www.resil.com](http://www.resil.com).