

GREEN ROCKS FIBRES: BRIEF OVERVIEW

Material	Biodegradable	Green(ish) manufacturing	Animal welfare concerns	Quick comments
Cotton	✓	✗	✗	Cotton is said to be responsible for 18% of global pesticide use. Child labour in cotton picking is also rampant.
Organic Cotton	✓	✓	✗	Make sure it's GOTS certified.
Rayon	✓	✗	✗	Rayon production is a water- and chemical-intensive process, and also contributes to deforestation and pollution.
Modal	✓	✗	✗	Modal is manufactured using the same toxic solvents as conventional rayon. It doesn't need to be dry-clean, however, so is slightly greener than rayon.
Lyocell (Tencel)	✓	✓	✗	Lyocell manufacturing reclaims and recycles up to 99.8% of the solvents used.
Bamboo	✓	✗	✗	Most bamboo fabric is chemically manufactured using strong chemical solvents. Look out for bamboo linen for a green alternative.
Hemp	✓	✓	✗	Hemp is pretty damn awesome! Just make sure the dye is organic.
Flax	✓	✓	✗	Eco problems with flax linen occur during the washing, bleaching, dyeing and finishing of the fabrics. Make sure dyes are organic.
Silk	✓	✗	✓	Billions of silkworms have been boiled alive :/ Look out for peace, or Tussah silk for a green alternative.
Wool/cashmere/ alpaca, etc.	✓	✗	✓	Serious animal rights issues. Make sure you go for organic alternatives.
Ramie	✓	✗	✗	Ramie requires chemical processing to de-gum the fibre.
Recycled polyester	✗	✗	✗	Recycling simply delays the inevitable end up in landfill or incinerator.
Recycled nylon	✗	✗	✗	See above.