

OEKO·TEX®
Association

Consumer information
Shop smart – look for the
OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 label



It's a symbol you can rely on!

Safety certainly feels good

We are in close contact with textiles throughout our lives – day and night. We wear them next to our skin, sleep in textile products, dry ourselves with them, use them to decorate our homes and for much more. Isn't it good to know that textiles – whether they're made of natural or synthetic material – are free of substances that could harm our health?

When you're out shopping, look for the sign of safety and transparency, the label that says "Confidence in Textiles – tested for harmful substances according to OEKO-TEX® Standard 100".



It's the sign that a product has successfully passed tests based on more than 100 health-relevant parameters carried out by the independent testing institutes of the OEKO-TEX® Association.

This standard was developed in 1992 in order to ensure a comprehensive level of safety for all levels of production – from the manufacture of yarns to the finished product, including accessories such as buttons and zips.

Textiles bearing the OEKO-TEX® label meet high human ecological requirements.

Our principle is: The more intense contact a product has with the skin, the stricter the criteria we set for it.

**You can count
on it!**

This *language*
is understood all
over the *world*

It doesn't matter where you buy textiles or where they've been made: All products marked with the OEKO-TEX® label are safe because they're free of any amounts of harmful substances.

We ensure this with OEKO-TEX® criteria that are uniform world-wide and which all member institutes' laboratories are obliged to use to systematically test textiles.



OEKO-TEX®
Association

More than 9,500 manufacturers in over 80 countries have their products tested and certified according to the high testing standards of the International OEKO-TEX® Association using state-of-the-art laboratory technology and scientifically-based parameters for harmful substances.

For your safety and certainty.

You can find (branded) textiles marked with the OEKO-TEX® label all over the world. They're available in nearly every type of retail outlet – in speciality shops, department stores, mail order catalogues and even at discounters.



Always a *step ahead*

The OEKO-TEX® Association has always made its aim to be a bit ahead of times. That's why testing for harmful substances is only part of what it does.

Since it was established, OEKO-TEX® has always occupied a pre-eminent role in continually setting new benchmarks for the industry by pursuing scientific research and furthering the development of testing processes.



Of course the tests for harmful substances include legally banned and regulated substances, e.g. specific carcinogenic chemicals derived from AZO dyes.

Beyond that, tests are also made for chemicals known to pose a threat to health. For years now, OEKO-TEX® has, for example, ruled out the use of allergenic dyes even though legal limits have yet to be placed on them.

These also include parameters such as good colourfastness and skin-friendly pH values that are part of sound health care.



This is where you can find a detailed catalogue of our testing criteria:
WWW. oeko-tex.com/limitvalues

4 Product classes

OEKO-TEX® tests for harmful substances are always orientated towards how the product is actually used.

Delicate items worn next to the skin, such as baby clothes, underwear or lingerie, must as a result meet tougher standards than textiles that have little or no contact with the skin such as, for example, fabrics used for decorating.

Accordingly, OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 has four product classes.



Product Class I

Textiles and textile toys for babies and small children up to the age of three: underwear, romper suits, bed linen, bedding, soft toys, etc.

Product Class II

Textiles for which large part of their surface is in direct contact with the skin: underwear, shirts, blouses, socks and stockings, bed linens, terry goods etc.

Product Class III

Textiles that do not come into contact with the skin or only have a small part of their surface in contact with the skin: jackets, coats, items for use outdoors, etc.

Product Class IV

Materials for interior decorating and decorative purposes: table linen, curtains, upholstery etc.

Tested quality – something you can count on!

The OEKO-TEX® label is proof positive for you when it's a matter of finding textiles that are safe from a human ecological standpoint.

Even after laboratory testing has been carried out by the testing institutes and certificates have been issued to manufacturers, annual monitoring tests are also performed at the point-of-sale for more than 15% of the certificates issued.



In addition, the OEKO-TEX® Association also carries out on-site monitoring at OEKO-TEX® certified companies. Independent auditors go to the firm to assess whether quality assurance there meets OEKO-TEX® requirements.



All or nothing: the modular principle

Products may only bear the OEKO-TEX® label if all components meet without exception the requirements of the pre-established testing criteria. Thus, along with the fabric and sewing thread, non-textile accessories, such as buttons, zips, lining, and stuffing etc., are also tested for concentrations of harmful substances that could pose a threat to health.

After all, the whole is only as good as the sum of its parts.

Sewing thread



Press studs



Fabrics



Zips



Every article that's been successfully tested receives a certificate with a test number. When you're out shopping, look for items with a test number on the label.

You can have **confidence** in the OEKO-TEX® label, too!

All the firms taking part – from yarn makers to weavers, knitters, and finishers right through to garment manufacturers and retail shops – pay attention to the requirements of the OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 in their daily production routines and earn your “Confidence in Textiles” through commitment to and implementation of those demands.

With 95,000 certificates issued up to now, the label “Confidence in Textiles” is world-wide the best-known and most widespread test label for textiles that have been tested for harmful substances.





Baby underwear, baby clothes, textile toys and other products for babies

OEKO-TEX® subjects textiles that come into contact with the sensitive skin of babies and children to the toughest requirements of all. That's why all OEKO-TEX® certified baby items must be dyed so their colours are resistant to saliva. Formaldehyde is banned. What's even nicer is that many manufacturers comply with these special requirements for textiles that aren't only intended for small children or infants!

Oeko-Tex® Standard 100:
Rest assured that particularly items for babies have passed the toughest of testing requirements.

Terry Goods

Whether it's during daily hygiene, at the gym, in the sauna, or on the road: Terry products such as bath and hand towels frequently come into intense contact with the skin. That's why it's important to pay attention to ensure these products don't contain any substances that could pose a threat to health. Terry products marked with the OEKO-TEX® label meet this demand, and what's more, they have good colour-fast ratings.

Bedding and Bed Linen

These textiles are tested according to OEKO-TEX® requirements for textiles used close to the skin.

Mattresses, pillows and duvets bearing the OEKO-TEX® label are free of concentrations of harmful substances that could pose a threat to health. After all, we spend about a third of our lives in bed. It's a time that should naturally be as revitalising and healthy as possible.

Large volume products made of foam are also subjected to OEKO-TEX® laboratory tests, where they face additional emissions testing to rule out the release of harmful substances into the air.

Curtains, decorating fabrics and table linen

Some products we use to decorate our homes have large surface areas and can have a significant influence on indoor air quality.

Whether they're curtains, or it's a table cloth, decorating fabric or upholstery material, or textile wall or floor coverings:

You can be certain again – there's no trace odours from home textiles that carry the OEKO-TEX® label.

Please use the internet to find out more about certified products and brand-name items:

WWW.oeko-tex.com/products and **WWW.oeko-tex.com/brands**



Outerwear

Fashion is an important means of expressing your individuality on the job, during leisure time and at play.

Look for the OEKO-TEX® label when you're shopping to make sure you choose the items that are BOTH good for your health as well as your appearance.

From t-shirts to tuxedos, caps to socks, and cycling shorts to a football strip: The OEKO-TEX® label allows you to find textiles that have been tested for harmful substances at stores in your area, so you can shop smart.

Daywear and Nightwear

In consideration of their daily use, underwear, lingerie, sleepwear and nightshirts are in principle tested and certified according to the requirements for OEKO-TEX® Product Class II.

From a health standpoint, body-wear marked with the OEKO-TEX® label offers unlimited wearing pleasure and a skin-friendly pH value.

Medical Products

Whether it's a bandage or a pair of compression stockings, orthopaedic undergarments, diabetic socks, incontinence aids or clothing for neurodermatitis sufferers, medical products are highly functional and make an important contribution to increasing our daily sense of well-being and quality of life.

Particularly for people with sensitive skin, the safety of textiles used for medical products is of immense importance. A leading medical service organisation of Germany's public health insurance funds, MDS, has demanded that these items be found free of substances that could be harmful to health.

As an independent testing label for textiles that have been tested for harmful substances, OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 meets this demand.

Workwear and Protective Clothing

In order to meet general and specific protective specifications for workwear, heavy technical demands are placed on textile constructions and many types of modern, sophisticated combinations of materials and high-tech finishings are used.

Textile safety is – along with good wearing comfort – particularly important because workwear must be accepted by the wearer for it actually to be used.

Sustainable laundering – there's so much you, yourself, can do!

Do a little extra for your health – use textiles that have been tested for harmful substances.

The OEKO-TEX® Testing Association uses complex tests and painstaking monitoring to ensure products marked with the OEKO-TEX® label are unobjectionable in human ecological terms.

If you would like to not only do something to protect your health, but to extend the life of your textiles, there's a great deal you can do simply through proper care.

Your job to ensure the best value-maintenance of your textiles is:

Please be certain to follow laundry detergent amount recommendations and be aware of the hardness of the water at your home.

Remember to comply with the recommendations on the textile's care instructions label.

Sustainable laundering Textile care



To protect delicate fabrics, it helps to turn the garment inside out.

Base the amount of detergent on the degree of soiling of the laundry, and please sort according to colour (lights, medium, darks). That should give you optimal results.

Save energy – reduce CO₂ emissions for a better climate

One way to cut down on energy costs is to reduce laundering temperature (e.g. from 60 °C to 40 °C). This can also reduce the CO₂-emissions of a two-person household by as much as 33 kg annually.

But drying is where you can really save, and help the environment – e.g. count on fine weather, leave the dryer alone and hang up the laundry in the fresh air. Dryers use much more energy than washing machines.

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