



Several fabric suppliers produce stunning eco-responsible fabrics for contract and residential upholstery, woven from natural and recyclable fibers. Also, dyers are now producing low-impact and non-toxic dyes and finishes that are free of heavy metals and other harmful agents.

The textile industry uses huge amounts of water and chemicals in their production of fabrics. "It is the number one industrial polluter of water in the world." So your choice to use organic fabrics produced without chemicals, and with less water, is a big step forward to lightening your environmental footprint. **For samples of any of the eco-fabrics in our Truēco Living display, contact [bobbie@truecoliving.com](mailto:bobbie@truecoliving.com) or 650.580.2529.**

**Organic fabrics** are free of pesticides, fungicides, herbicides, and chemical fertilizers, keeping these toxic pollutants out of the air, water, ground, and food supply. Eliminating pesticides and insecticides is especially relevant to cotton production, which uses large amounts of chemicals. "It takes between 10% and 100% of the weight of the fabric in chemicals to produce standard fabric."

Fibers in this category include **organic cotton, organic linen (flax), and organic wool.** Look for a certification from GOTS (Global Organic Textile Standards) on any organic fabric you purchase to insure it is not only grown organically, but also manufactured in a safe, eco-conscious manner.

**Hemp and bamboo** have joined these **sustainable fabrics** as eco-wise choices for fabrics. Both are naturally pest-free and use low amounts of water. Because bamboo is a food source for pandas, you should look for the FSC (Forestry Stewardship Council) certification on bamboo fabrics to insure they are harvested from protected bamboo forests.

These fabrics are produced from **sustainable crops** that have a growth and harvest cycle of less than five years, making them quickly renewable sources.

**Recycled fibers** are made from antimony-free polyester, which is a non-toxic polyester. These fabrics are often referred to as cradle-to-cradle because they can be recycled. It is best to purchase the recycled polyester fabrics that have been MBDC Cradle to Cradle certified.

