



kinder  
cleaner  
*better*

go organic with your wool



Organic textiles  
have come a  
long way

Photos: Front Cover: Aislinn Organic Living, Wales. This page: Aislinn Organic, Hebridian Tweeds, Caberges & Roses for Jigsaw.

# Organic wool textiles: *Better* for people, planet & animals

As well as being a natural, renewable, biodegradable and durable fibre, when wool textiles are organic there are additional benefits . . .

**1** Animal welfare is at the heart of organic systems. Organic sheep are reared, fed, sheltered and transported with consideration for their well being. Cruel practices are prohibited and animal stress is minimised. Organic farmers take a preventative approach to disease, so animals are not routinely treated with antibiotics, wormers or pesticides. Organic animals are reared on organic feed and grazed on organic land, and are free to pursue their natural behaviour with plenty of space outside and a free range life.

**2** We don't allow harmful manufacturing chemicals in organic textile production. For a product to be truly organic, the way fibres are processed into products must also be considered. The textile industry is one of the most polluting in the world, and thousands of tonnes of (sometimes toxic) chemicals are used and disposed of by the textile industry. In organic textiles we don't allow harmful chemicals and require a sound environmental policy.

**3** Organic final products don't contain allergenic, carcinogenic or toxic chemical residues. Residues from toxic chemicals used to grow fibre and process textiles can sometimes be found in final products. These residues can be inhaled or absorbed through the skin and may cause allergies, skin rashes and respiratory problems. By prohibiting or restricting harmful chemicals in organic textile production and processing, certified final products don't contain them.

See our website for more about the benefits of organic textiles

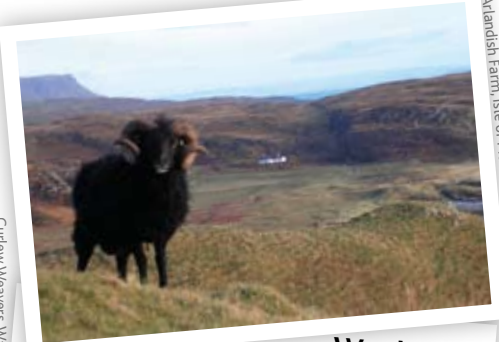


### A sheep farmer's view

"Organic wool comes from farms that put the sheep and the environment first. For us, it's all about the highest standards of animal welfare, natural rich pastures and fantastic fleeces from traditional British breeds with a world-class reputation for quality. Home grown organic wool for clothing, fabrics and other fine textiles!"  
Juliet Morris, Ystrad Farm, Wales.



Curlew Weavers, Wales



Arlandish Farm, Isle of Mull

### Wool, the UK's natural fibre

Sheep are a natural resource in the UK, which has over 60 breeds; more than any other country. From Wensleydales to Bluefaced Leicesters, Dorsets to Hebridians and more, all offer different properties and all are available as organic. By buying UK organic wool, you can help maintain a wool industry which is environmentally sustainable, animal friendly and diverse.  
\*Not all Soil Association certified wool will be from the UK, please check with your supplier/retailer.



Wendleleydale sheep, Ystrad Farm, Wales

The Soil Association was founded in 1946 as a charity concerned with researching and promoting agricultural, environmental and human health. Today the Soil Association is a membership charity and NGO, working alongside its subsidiary, Soil Association Certification Ltd, which since 1973 has been certifying organic farms and businesses.



We've been working in organic textiles for over 10 years and played a leading role in the development of the Global Organic Textile Standards (GOTS) which Soil Association Certification now certifies to.

**The Soil Association is the heart and voice of the UK organic movement.**

## What does organic certification mean?

When the Soil Association symbol is on a textile product, it means the production of the fibre on farm and the processing of this into textiles and final products has met organic standards, and has been checked at every step of the processing supply chain for social and environmental responsibility.



Soil Association Certification inspect its licensees at application and then on an annual basis against the Global Organic Textile Standards (GOTS) which cover: fibres and accessories permitted (some synthetics allowed), labelling requirements, social criteria (to International Labour Organization norms), traceability and separation, chemicals allowed in processing, waste water treatment, environmental policy and quality requirements.



Garthenor Organic Pure wool, Wales

## How to go organic?

### Are you a consumer?

Look out for the Soil Association symbol on textile products, or visit our website to find out more: [www.soilassociation.org](http://www.soilassociation.org)

### Are you a business?

Contact our Trade Support team to find suppliers or convert your wool products to organic:

T 0117 914 2406 F 0117 314 5046

E [goorganic@soilassociation.org](mailto:goorganic@soilassociation.org)

W [www.sacert.org](http://www.sacert.org)

## There's never been a *better* time to go organic

**The market for organic textiles is growing.** People are better informed than ever about the social and environmental impacts of making textile products, and so brands and manufacturers are responding by going organic. **Certified organic textile businesses saw their sales grow in total by a whopping 35% in 2010.**

After 10 year's hard work there are now complete organic wool supply chains in the UK: from the numerous breeds of organic sheep, to grading, scouring, dyeing, carding, spinning, finishing, weaving, knitting or constructing final products. Final products now available include fashion, worsted wool fabrics, home textiles, accessories, fibres for carpets, mattresses, knitting kits, blankets...

**All is possible in organic!**



Ardalinish Organic-Hybridian Tweeds, Cabbages & Roses for Jigsaw



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