

1

How to source sustainable materials

Where to start:

Identify what type of fabric will be the best fit for your product(s) and then find out if there's a more sustainable version of that fabric.

For example:

If you know you want to use 100% cotton, then start researching organic cotton. If you know you need polyester, then start researching recycled polyester. Find out what the "sustainable match" is to your fabric needs.

2

How to choose a manufacturing partner

Where to start:

Look for manufacturing partners within driving distance (or a short flight) of where you live. When researching production partners, pay special attention to pages outlining fair labor policies, minimum wage and any certifications they have available.

Pro tip:

Don't contact a factory for production services until you have a completed spec sheet. You can download a free spec sheet template here.

3

How to select sustainable packaging

Where to start:

Decide which type of packaging will best fit your product(s) -- envelope mailer, box, garment bag or something else?

Factory45 favorite:

EcoEnclose is the most widely used packaging service by Factory45 entrepreneurs — we love their recyclable and reusable poly-mailers, compostable boxes and customized branding options.

Ready to take action?

Through Factory45, you will get access to:

- A Fabric Database of 100+ global suppliers
- A Manufacturing Database of 75+ factories
- A Packaging Database of 50+ sustainable packaging options
- And so much more, including marketing, ecommerce and fundraising strategies

Applications to join the 2020 program of Factory45 are now open here: factory45.co