

Bags of Ethics™/ Supreme Creations

PEOPLE | PLANET | PRODUCT



At Bags of Ethics™ we aim to make sure that in every stage of production we consciously respect the **people, planet and product**. We have implemented many strategies and techniques that allow us to operate in a way that is as ethical and sustainable as possible at the current time. These are just a few of the things that make us an ethically and sustainably minded business. We are on a journey and always looking to learn more about new methods, techniques, and materials that make businesses more sustainable – so please do collaborate by emailing info@bagsofethics.org

People

At Bags of Ethics™ we believe that the people behind the product should be valued and celebrated just as much as the product itself. We place a large emphasis on the farmers, designers, tailors, packers, artists and consumers, and believe that every individual who contributes to the production of our bags should have their efforts recognised.

Farmers

Our manufacturer [Supreme Creations](#) works with farmers of cotton who are certified under international labelling organisations such as Fairtrade, Global Organic Textile Standards (GOTS), and the SEDEX ethical auditing body. Accreditations from organisations such as Fairtrade assures that the farmers growing the cotton for our products are paid better prices, have decent working conditions and have fair terms of trade. This allows the farmers to have more control over their lives, and receive a wage worthy of the work that they put into growing the product.

Please note that we source all variations of cotton depending on your budget – not all of our products are Fairtrade or organic certified cotton.



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Tailors and Manufacturing Teams

Our accredited manufacturer [Supreme Creations](http://www.supreme-creations.co.uk) owns the factory in which all of our products are made – full control of the supply chain. Situated in Pondicherry, South India, 9/10 of the people working at the factory are women. These women are pillars of their community, with the vast majority being the main breadwinners for their family. The women are involved in every aspect of the manufacturing process – including non-traditional roles. Their roles include working in the cutting teams, merchandising teams, tailoring, printing, quality control, and packing. We cherish them, and constantly remember and celebrate the work which they do for us, as the people behind the product should never be forgotten. Do ask our team for pictures and videos from production of your product.



supreme group
Supreme House
Penbridge Close
at Central Way
on NW10 0UF

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Planet

REUSE: All of our products (bags, T-shirts, pouches, reusable packaging etc.) can be reused over 5000 times, and most are 100% biodegradable. One tote bag will save over 5,000 single-use plastic bags, which if implemented by even a small amount of people would have a dramatic effect on the amount of single-use plastic making its way into our oceans and waterways. Our factory also no longer pack samples in poly-bags, instead we use off-cut/ upcycled fabric envelopes and newspaper stuffing to maintain shape, further reducing single-use plastic consumption.

CO2/ TREE PLANTING/ ENERGY: At Bags of Ethics™ we do everything possible to limit our carbon emissions, such as using less electricity, and where possible shipping orders via sea freight rather than air. We also use 100% renewable energy in the UK as part of our energy consumption. We have currently launched a tree planting scheme to sequester CO2. The tree-planting will be done in the locality of our factory.

SUSTAINABLE STEPS: In our offices both in London and India, we encourage our team to be as sustainably minded as possible, both at work and at home. We regularly have education sessions and notices on how to reduce single-use plastic usage – everything from beauty, home, fitness, and food. We have a full recycling scheme in the office. Many of the team cycle to work. We have a team lunch every Wednesday to support local producers, and to reduce packaging waste, and food miles. This process is also part of our wellbeing programme so that our team bond over a vegetarian meal.

NO SINGLE USE PLASTIC – we do not use single-use plastic in any of our products. Read our blogs to learn more: <http://bagsofethics.org/our-blog/>

DEFINITIONS/ TRADE OFFS: We are constantly working on finding new ways to be more sustainable and environmentally friendly. "Sustainability" can sometimes involve making decisions which are choosing between different options. For example, you could choose a biodegradable option which requires water usage, but which also supports farming communities. You could choose a less carbon intensive process, but which uses synthetic fibres. There is always a trade-off and choice

JOIN THE COMMUNITY: We are always trying to find new materials that are 100% biodegradable, finding more ways to reduce our CO2 emissions, and spreading the message of sustainability in order to educate more people on how they can make small changes that will have a big effect on our planet. We welcome suggestions along the way.

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Product

We have a variety of processes and accreditations which mean our production methods and product are driven to be as reusable, and as long-lasting as possible.

- **ORGANIC:** We offer organic, Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) certified cotton. This means that the farmers who grow the cotton are not using pesticides which contain nitrates – nitrates easily enter the watercourse and have an adverse effect on biodiversity, soil and public health.
- **NATURAL FABRICS:** Other fabrics that we offer have been produced with materials grown by farmers who are part of communities which protect the land they use to grow the cotton (Agrocel community farmers).
- **INKS/ DYES:** We also use non-toxic inks and dyes that are REACH compliant. REACH is a regulation of the European Union adopted to improve the protection of human health and the environment from the risks posed by chemicals. It also promotes alternative methods for the hazard assessment of substances in order to reduce animal testing. Our Dyeing Houses are certified by the Environment Board in India which accredits facilities that dispose of their waste inks in non-harmful ways (i.e. protects the waterways and water systems)
- **INKS:** Most of our water-based inks are also vegetable based.
- **VEGAN:** We have also introduced a high-quality vegan leather options. We are vegan certified (The Vegan Society) for our products and production processes.
- **GLOBAL RECYCLING STANDARDS:** we have access to accredited recycled fabrics
- **NATURAL LAMINATION:** We have developed a 100% biodegradable lamination inside our bag made from vegetable starch which makes some of our products wipeable
- **UPCYCLING:** We also do our best to **upcycle waste fabric.**
- **BAGS OF ETHICS™** All of our products feature the **Bags of Ethics™ logo**, which accredits the ethical and sustainable practices that went into making the products.



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