

The making of quality hemp textile



Origin

Our textiles are made from Industrial Hemp, grown, treated, woven and sewn in the EU. The production steps shown apply to our suppliers and other producers of genuine hemp textile.



Growing – no pesticides

Because hemp repels bugs and microbes including most fungi, no pesticides are needed and none are used.



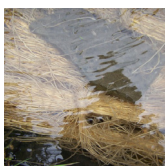
Growing – no herbicides (or fertilizers)

The hemp stalks grow in dense crops (distance 10-12 cm). This reduces weed growth by 95%, eliminating the need for herbicides.



Bio-friendly harvesting (ours)

The leaves are removed manually from the stalk and left in the fields to biodegrade and replenish the soil.



Field-retting (ours)

The stalks are submerged in man-made water ponds. Natural enzymes remove lignin in the bark and free the fibres.
– Some producers use chemical processes, instead of natural retting, thereby ruining the natural qualities of the fibres.



Separating fibres (ours)

Retted stalks are sun dried, making them ready for mechanical processes which shorten and separate the fibres from the rest of the plant.



Combing fibres

Fibres are mechanically combed to separate short fibres (40 mm) from long fibres (8 mm) and to untangle the fibres.



Yarn spinning

Ring spinning, wet, open end & dry spinning. The yarn is now ready for weaving on conventional weaving equipment.



Bleaching or dyeing (ours)

White/off white: Hydrogen Peroxide (H₂O₂) bleach (the process leaves no chemical traces, turning H₂O₂ into water and oxygen).
Coloured fabric: GOTS-certified dyes.



Quality of fibres used (ours)

Fiber length: 80 mm average. – Egyptian cotton ("Extra-Long-Staple") has a max length of ca. 40 mm. The structure and length of the fibres give the fabric a strength of about 3 x that of cotton.



Environmental impact (ours)

Growing hemp has a very low environmental impact, compared to all fibers, synthetic or natural. The greenhouse effect is very low. Waste water is much lower than for cotton.
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/pdf/tbr/textiles_tbr.pdf



Reuse & biodegradability

Normally, you can reuse hemp textiles for generations. And it gets better with use. After that, hemp textile decomposes, naturally – to compost.