
We address our sustainable objectives through the following criteria:

Fiber selection

Rapidly Renewable — Wool, linen, organic cotton, and cotton are various rapidly renewable fibers found in HBF Textiles. With any natural-fiber directed design, our goal is to utilize 50% or more rapidly renewable content within a given pattern.

Recycled Content — Our primary objective is to incorporate higher post-consumer recycled polyester content (the source of which is primarily plastic water bottles or PET bottles) vs. pre-consumer recycled polyester content found as excess or off spec polyester in a post-industrial use.

Buying local

A key ingredient in the development of our designs is the close relationships we have with our weaving mills. Through their weaving capabilities, yarn selections and depth of color options, we have found many domestic weavers who are extremely adept at developing our most signature designs. These mills are within a 500 mile radius of HBF Textiles with locations in North and South Carolina, and Pennsylvania. In addition many of the yarns utilized within our fabric designs are produced in North and South Carolina.

Third party certification

MBDC, Cradle to Cradle (C2C) Certification — The Cradle to Cradle Certified™ program is a third party, multi-attribute eco-label administered by the Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute that assesses a product's safety to humans and the environment and design for future life cycles. The C2C framework has outlined a vision to guide product design and manufacturing, and the certification program recognizes varying levels of achievement towards that goal. Under the current Version 3 of the program, there are five levels of product certification: Basic, Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum. In order to be certified at a certain level, a product must meet the minimum criteria for that level in all five criteria categories: Material Health, Material Reutilization, Renewable Energy Use, Water Stewardship, and Social Fairness. Several of the weaving mills and fibers used to create our patterns were awarded a rating as it applies to the criteria met under Version 2.1.1. Examples include our wool upholstery Heartfelt (Gold) pattern which is considered a biological nutrient and our Eco-Intelligent® polyester Forest for the Trees pattern (Gold) which is a technical nutrient. www.c2ccertified.org

ISO 14001 — ISO 14001-environmental ISO-This environmental standard would apply to the sustainable practices within specific mills or tanneries that we work with in the US and abroad. www.iso.org

OEKO-Tex — OEKO-Tex simply means that each ingredient in a particular fabric is evaluated and certified to be safe for human health. Many of our current products from Europe meet this standard for using non-toxic chemicals. www.oeko-tex.com

SCS Global Services (SCS) — Third party certification and verification company that has been ISO accredited to provide services under a wide range of nationally and internationally recognized certification programs (examples include Facts-NSF 336, FSC, level®, Indoor Advantage™). www.scsglobalservices.com

Facts-NSF 336 — Association of Contract Textiles (ACT) has developed Facts to recognize contract textiles that conform to the rigors of the multi-attribute textiles standard NSF/ANSI 336 and are third party certified. This standard examines eight sustainability attributes. Two of those eight apply to the fiber composition: Fiber sourcing and safety of materials. The other six elements comprise aspects of the manufacturing process: Water conservation, water quality, energy, air quality, recycling practices and social accountability. Once Facts reaches a compliant threshold it can be designated as a Facts Silver, Gold or Platinum rating by earning points for additional sustainability criteria. www.contracttextiles.org (ACT)

Finishes

Fewer Chemicals — Our goal at HBF Textiles is to reduce the amount of finishing and backing on a fabric through the engineering of weaves structures which can lessen the need for these chemical treatments. When a finish is required for a specific performance application, we can accommodate the customer's needs by only finishing to that specification in the yardage amount requested. No additional chemicals sitting on the material in the warehouse or emissions in the processing of every yard vs. just what is needed. In the long run it's less impact on the environment and less impact on our members.

PFOA-Free Finishes and Low Fluro-Carbon Finishes — When we introduce a performance textile that requires a more stringent stain resistant characteristic we utilize either GreenShield or Nano-Tex®; two branded finishes which offer resistance to liquids as they roll off of a treated surface. Both options are based on nano-particle chemistry which disperses the least amount of chemical over the greatest expanse of material. In addition GreenShield has been certified by the SCS Global Services (SCS) as Low Fluorocarbon product. For more information:

<http://www.greenshieldfinish.com>
www.protectbeauty.com (Nano-Tex®)

Hickory, North Carolina

Fabric Waste — All HBF Textiles scraps from the furniture cutting area are collected and re-purposed into memos for our customer's libraries which prevents fabrics from ending up in the landfill. All HBF Textiles' development samples are donated to local universities/schools for student projects and elderly care facilities for their sewing programs. Leather scrap is sold to another company that uses it in their production.

Our Manufacturing Facility — In Hickory NC at our production and warehouse facility we currently recycle all plastic, cardboard, paper, cans, glass, metal, wood pallets, scrap fabrics, upholstery filling materials, and fabric tubes.

Shipping and Marketing Materials — We have recently shifted all of our packaging materials to bio-degradable, formaldehyde free paper and cardboard or post-consumer recyclable plastic bags. Our Marketing support materials are printed on post-consumer paper.