

# Fabrics

## Our approach to sustainable materials

In our fabric collection, quality and sustainability go hand in hand. We select only fabrics that meet the highest quality standards and are designed to last as long as possible. We consider performance, application, appearance, feel, and environmental impact. To achieve this, we work closely with leading European suppliers. Our goal is to offer a fabric range made entirely from mono-materials and recycled or renewable materials.



### Minimal environmental impact

We prefer to choose post-consumer recycled materials, which reduces the environmental impact of our fabrics by an average of 30% compared to 100% new materials.<sup>1</sup> We aim to guarantee the origin of the recycled material, ensuring that materials are not made from newly produced PET bottles but rather from post-consumer recycled material. To offer this guarantee, we require all our suppliers to have a registered Global Recycled Standard (GRS) certificate or a Recycled Claim Standard (RCS).

### More than recycled yarn

When selecting our fabrics, we look beyond just recycled yarn. We test according to the same rigorous standards as for new materials to ensure the quality and longevity of our products. We also examine the entire life and production cycle. How is the fabric produced? Where does the production take place? What is the expected lifespan? What ingredients are used? Is the recycled material traceable? Is the fabric suitable for recycling at the end of its life cycle? Are no harmful substances applied that could affect human health or the environment? Our standard fabrics

meet Oeko-Tex 100 certification. A large part of our fabric collection also has an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD).

We are also working with our suppliers to explore ways to reduce the environmental impact of synthetic leather. For example, we are testing alternatives such as leather made from orange peels and mycelium (fungal threads). However, these alternatives have not yet met the hygiene standards for healthcare and educational applications.

<sup>1</sup> Percentage based on LCA calculation of a standard 100% new and a post-consumer recycled (92% PCR, 8% new) polyester fabric in the Ahrend collection with a similar specific weight.

<sup>2</sup> Oeko-Tex 100 is an international certification for textile products, ensuring that they contain no harmful substances and are safe for human health.



### Multiple life cycles

Our standard fabrics meet the highest market standards.

Our fabrics meet at least:

- › 50,000 Martindale (EN ISO 12947-2)
- › 3 Pilling resistance (EN 12945-2)
- › 5 Lightfastness (EN ISO 105-B02) <sup>3</sup>

### Making an impact together

We aim to close the loop. That's why we collaborate with suppliers, startups, local partners, and social enterprises on innovative materials made from our own waste. For instance, we are researching recycled felt from our textile waste together with our fabric suppliers. The social enterprise VanHulley makes accessories from our leftover fabrics. Additionally, we use recycled acoustic materials in our range of screens and panels.

#### i-felt

By applying i-felt material to screens and panels, we create both a sustainable and social impact. The social enterprise i-did, which produces i-felt,

employs people who have never worked or have been out of work for a long time. These individuals receive intensive coaching and support from i-did, enabling them to develop work skills and eventually enter the regular job market.

### Polyester

Our preferred synthetic fibre is polyester. All our polyester fabrics are made entirely or partially from post-consumer recycled material. The functional fibre and technical properties make it particularly suitable for upholstery. Polyester is a durable and lightfast material that retains its colour, shape, and appearance even with frequent use. It has excellent stretch and covering properties, is easy to process, and is

suitable for many designs, shapes, and applications. Polyester is also a versatile material in terms of appearance, colour, and tactile properties. It can mimic the texture and appearance of natural fibres like wool, cotton, or silk. It is also suitable for a high-tech look.

### Wool

Wool is our favourite natural fibre. It has a number of natural aesthetic and functional properties that other natural fibres do not possess. Wool is naturally stain-resistant and repels moisture, making it easy to clean. It is a breathable material that contributes to a comfortable seating experience. Wool is flame-retardant and hypoallergenic, improving safety and health in the office environment. Additionally,

<sup>3</sup> Except for i-felt from i-did, which is only used for vertical products such as acoustic panels. Therefore, the material is less exposed to heavy friction compared to fabrics used on horizontal products like seats.





#### **i-felt contributes to:**

- › Reducing the waste mountain: one square metre of i-felt is produced from approximately 330 grams of old textiles
- › CO<sub>2</sub> reduction: with one square metre of i-felt, you save around 414 litres of water and 3.5 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> per square metre
- › Sustainable and social impact: the enterprise i-did, which makes i-felt, holds a PSO 30+ certificate, enabling social procurement (SROI)

wool is durable: it has an extremely long lifespan, with colour and appearance remaining intact. When calculating environmental impact, wool is noted for having a relatively high impact, as the entire lifespan of the animals is included in the calculation. Therefore, it is essential that the sheep providing the wool are well cared for. This is not only important for animal welfare but also for the quality of the wool. That's why we only work with suppliers who set strict standards for the living conditions of the sheep for our standard collection.

#### **100% recyclable mono-backing**

Our fabrics in the standard collection for panels and screens have a sustainable backing. This mono-backing is a mono-material made of (recycled) polyester, which is attached to the fabric with 100% polyester glue. The result? The mono-backing is 100% recyclable, and the fabrics remain suitable for textile recycling at the end of their life cycle.

#### **Compliance**

We set strict requirements for the chemicals used during the production of fabrics. We also limit the emission of harmful substances. We test all our products according to international standards and ensure compliance with regulations such as REACH and RoHS. We screen our materials against a list of banned substances and continually assess our suppliers to ensure they meet the highest standards in material health.