

G-Star RAW Responsible Materials & Animal Welfare Policy

G-Star RAW Materials Policy

G-Star RAW is committed to sourcing and securing supply of raw materials from a responsible, ethical, sustainable and transparent perspective which preserves resources and respects human- and animal rights. The sourcing and production of raw materials must be in line with local laws, as well as international standards and must not lead to degradation or destruction of ecosystems or biodiversity. G-Star is committed to sourcing and producing materials in a sustainable way, taking into account both social and environmental impacts. This is also reflected in our sustainable materials goal: by 2025, 75% of our collection will be made with recycled and/or organic, bio-based or compostable materials. By 2030 this should apply for the full collection. Read more on our sustainable materials strategy [here](#).

The scope of the policy covers textile materials used in all apparel and accessories for main fabrics, linings and filling and where applicable trims/componentry. G-Star requires all involved with the design, development and manufacturing of products to be informed of the standards set in this policy and ensure that all raw materials and finished goods meet the applicable standards. G-Star's Sustainability Department are responsible for carrying out an annual review of the policy and including relevant updates.

The [minimum Social and Environmental](#) requirements, as well as the [Health & Safety \(EHS\) standards](#) for the manufacturing of our products are outlined in the [G-Star RAW Supplier Code of Conduct](#). The Code of Conduct refers to the G-Star RAW Responsible Materials & Animal Welfare Policy as the basis for monitoring the use of raw materials for G-Star RAW products. This Animal Welfare policy contains restrictions and requirements with respect to the use of raw materials for our products and packaging and applies to all our suppliers.

All suppliers are required to cascade this policy and create a traceable and transparent system to keep on file records that provide credible assurance of the origin of the raw materials and if applicable sustainability certifications. This information must be shared with G-Star on seasonal basis and spot-checks will be carried out on product assortments to verify compliance. In the case of a breach, this will be logged internally and a workstream set up to resolve the non-compliance. In case of unwillingness to cooperate and/or repeated violations of this Policy, G-Star may, in its sole discretion, consider terminating the business relationship with the supplier.

Evaluation and categorization of materials

All materials used in G-Star RAW products are evaluated and categorized according to the G-Star RAW Responsible Materials Ranking. The ranking classifies fibres based on environmental impact, according to existing industry standards. To guarantee the most objective and up-to-date ranking tool, the categorization of the fibres is based on existing industry tools and scoring mechanisms such as Higg Materials Sustainability Index (Higg MSI), the rigorous standards of the Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute, CanopyStyle's annual Hot Button Ranking and the Preferred Material Benchmark by Textile Exchange. Read more about our G-Star RAW Responsible Material Ranking [here](#).

Cotton

Cotton is our most commonly used fibres representing 80% of all raw material we use. In 2021, about 0.5% of the cotton we use is conventional cotton, the rest of our cotton is either organic, recycled or sourced through the Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) via a system of mass balance.

G-Star does not accept any unethical practices in the supply chain, including cotton cultivation. This is also further defined in our Supplier Code of Conduct. Unethical cotton practices are defined as cotton that is cultivated in circumstances without respect for human rights, any form of forced labour, a lack of healthy and safe working conditions for workers and no or limited environmental protection. G-Star prohibits cotton sourced from areas where ethical practices cannot be guaranteed to be included in G-Star products.

Organic Cotton

G-Star defines organic cotton as cotton fibres grown using low environmental impact methods free of toxic pesticides, insecticides and chemical fertilizers leading to improved soil condition, preventing water contamination and conserves biodiversity as well as lowers greenhouse gas emissions and improves cotton growers' health

Organically grown cotton must follow internationally recognized organic farming standards that are enshrined in law such as the Council Directive on Organic Farming (EU), the National Organic Program (NOP) (US and Asia) and the Japanese Agricultural Standard (JAS).

All organic cotton in G-Star RAW products must be certified in accordance with the Organic Content Standard (OCS), or equivalent, and certifications must be issued by a certification body accredited by Textile Exchange.

Recycled Cotton

Recycled cotton is per definition fibres produced from left-over material from production (pre-consumer recycled) or from used textiles that have been given a new life by being shredded, re-spun and knitted or woven into new material (Post-consumer recycled).

All recycled cotton in G-Star RAW products must be certified according to Global Recycling Standard (GRS) or Recycled Claim Standard (RCS) and issued by a certification body accredited by Textile Exchange.

Man-made Cellulosic fibres

G-Star does not accept wood-based and wood-derived products deriving from illegally logged sources, ancient and endangered forests, or from any endangered species as listed in the [International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List](#) as critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable. To meet this, we became a CanopyStyle partner in 2015 and committed to avoid sourcing fabrics from ancient and endangered forests, such as the Canadian and Russian Boreal Forests; Coastal Temperate Rainforests; tropical forests and peatlands of Indonesia, the Amazon and West Africa . We avoid recent deforestation in these forest by avoiding plantation fibres established after 1994 and require our suppliers to ensure the Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of local and indigenous communities prior to logging. This is supported through our preference for FSC certification.

In addition, G-Star prefers next generation fibres and suppliers of man-made cellulosic fibres who use a 'closed-loop' production, defined as a system that ensures emission controls and chemical recovery rates in line with EU Best Available Techniques (BAT).

To track the progress of our fibre suppliers we use the [Canopy Hot Button Ranking](#) for Man-Made Cellulosic fibre sourcing decisions and only source from green ranked producers.

The sustainable manmade cellulosic that are currently used in G-Star products are Lenzing branded fibres. For these fibres G-Star requires a Lenzing certification number from its suppliers.

Synthetic fibres

G-Star aims to phase out all virgin synthetic materials by 2030. We only accepts recycled synthetic fibres made from reclaimed pre-industrial, pre-consumer (industrial waste) and post-consumer materials.

Recycled synthetic materials must contain at least 50% recycled content in order to be claimed as recycled material.

All recycled synthetic materials used in G-Star RAWs products must be certified according to the Global Recycled Standard (GRS) or Recycled Claim Standard (RCS) and issued by a certification body accredited by Textile Exchange. Read more about the synthetic materials we currently source [here](#).

G-Star RAW Animal Welfare Policy

G-Star is committed to ensuring all apparel, accessories and footwear are manufactured ethically, and therefore that animals receive an excellent standard of care. All materials of animal origin must be sourced with respect to animal welfare and species conservation. G-Star is on a journey to achieving the 'General Welfare Aims' of the Five Domains Model across our supply chains. We recognise the challenges that currently exist, and strive to achieve farm-level traceability and work with our partners to improve the standard of care we can ensure, whilst continuing to seek animal derived materials certified to the highest standards of animal welfare available.

We do not accept any kind of ill-treatment of animals associated with the manufacturing of our products. Therefore, suppliers must implement international industry best practices for animal welfare on the farm, in transit, at the market or at a place of slaughter, based on the internationally recognized **Five Domains Model for assessing Animal Welfare**. The corresponding General Welfare Aims and the associated Provisions to the Five Domains assessment framework are:

1. **Good nutrition:** Provide ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.
2. **Good environment:** Provide shade/shelter or suitable housing, good air quality and comfortable resting areas
3. **Good health:** Prevent or rapidly diagnose and treat disease and injury, and foster good muscle tone, posture and cardiorespiratory function
4. **Appropriate behaviour:** Provide sufficient space, proper facilities, congenial company and appropriately varied conditions
5. **Positive mental experience:** Provide mental experience: Provide safe, congenial and species-appropriate opportunities to have pleasurable experiences

G-Star is committed to strictly comply with all applicable laws, conventions and regulations and adhere to global guidance provided by the following conventions:

- The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Appendix I
- The European Commission Wildlife Trade Regulations

Prohibition Animal Derived Materials:

It is strictly prohibited to use:

- **Raw materials from wildlife, which includes undomesticated species, vulnerable, endangered, exotic or wild-caught species**

This includes all materials derived from animals as listed in the *International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List* or the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

- **Fur**

G-Star has adopted a Fur Free Policy and publicly re-affirmed our commitment to being a fur-free retailer by becoming a member of the Fur Free Alliance.

Fur is defined as any animal skin or part thereof with hair or fur fibers attached thereto, either in its raw or processed state or the pelt of any animal killed for the animal's fur.

Fur shall not include:

- Materials clipped, shorn, or combed from animals, such as fleece, sheepskin, or shearling, with the exception of angora and mohair which, is not permitted.
 - Leather or hair attached to cow, sheep, buffalo, goat and pig skin. We give preference to leather processed through facilities rated by the Leather Working group (LWG) as Gold, Silver or Bronze.
 - Synthetic materials intended to look like fur.
- **Angora and Mohair**
G-Star prohibits the use of Angora and Mohair as the humane treatment of Angora goats and Angora rabbits cannot be assured.
 - **Down or Feathers**
Since 2020, G-Star banned the use of down and feathers to prevent the plucking of live geese or force-feeding techniques. Instead, we give preference to other sustainable alternatives such as 3M Thinsulate or Thermore®, an insulation made with recycled content.

Restrictions Animal Derived Materials:

Wool

Museled wool from sheep and lamb is not permitted and G-Star gives preference to wool certified in accordance with the Responsible Wool Standard (RDS), with the exception of karakul lamb which is prohibited. G-Star also accepts recycled certified wool according to the Recycled Claim Standard (RCS) or, the Global Recycling Standard (GRS) and issued by a certification body accredited by Textile Exchange.

In 2025 all virgin wool used in G-Star products will be organic, according to the Organic Content Standard (OCS) or certified at a yarn level according to the Responsible Wool Standard (RWS).

Alpaca

Sourced Alpaca wool must be sourced from producers with good animal husbandry. If using this fibre in future collections we will source certified alpaca wool, according to the [Responsible Alpaca Standard](#).

Cashmere

Sourced Cashmere must be sourced from producers with good animal husbandry. If using this fibre in future collections we will use source certified cashmere according the Good Cashmere Standard or, recycled cashmere. Recycled Cashmere must be certified according to the Recycled Claim Standard (RCS) or the Global Recycling Standard (GRS) and issued by a certification body accredited by Textile Exchange.

Leather

Today, G-Star only accepts leather as co-product from the meat industry from cow, sheep, buffalo, goat and pig and, from producers with good animal husbandry. G-Star is open to low impact and durable alternatives for leather, such as Yakron or plant-derived materials, as well as recycled leather. Recycled Leather must be certified according to the Recycled Claim Standard (RCS) or the Global Recycling Standard (GRS) and issued by a certification body accredited by Textile Exchange.

Silk

Silk is rarely used in the G-Star RAW collection. If using this fibre in the future, G-Star will give strong preference to silk from alternative keeping and harvesting systems with low potential animal welfare risk such as Ahimsa (also called Eri silk or peace silk), wild silk - Tasar, Tussar or Muga silk or organic certified silk.

Shell

G-Star prohibits the use of shell derived from animals as listed in the *International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List* or, the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

Circularity

To minimise the use of finite resources and operate within planetary boundaries G-Star gives preference to input materials which are safe, recycled and/or renewable as well as durable and recyclable. To eliminate waste in the textiles industry, G-Star aims to champion resource reuse and bring clear benefits for natural resources, economic wellbeing, and health and safety of the people who produce and dispose of our products. Resource efficiency at every stage is of importance.

Since 2018 we have been introducing and growing our offer of Cradle to Cradle certified® innovations. G-Star have set ambitious goals for 2025 to have 20% of our collection made with Cradle to Cradle certified® fabrics. In order to be certified at a a Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum level, a product must meet the minimum criteria for that level in all five criteria categories (material health, product circularity, clean air & climate protection, water & soil stewardship, social fairness). All Cradle to Cradle® certifications must be issued directly by Cradle to Cradle®, listed on their website and shared directly with G-Star.

On-product sustainability claims

G-Star requires high level of credibility and transparency to make on product claims related to the level of sustainability of a material or product. All claims must be substantiated against a standard methodology to assess the reduced impact on the environment. Sustainability claims on G-Star RAW products must be able to provide information on relevant aspects of the product that contribute to the product's sustainability profile such as the material or processes used. All claims must be verifiable by being third-party standard and issued by a certification body accredited by Textile Exchange.

Questions regarding G-Star RAW's Responsible Material & Animal Welfare Policy and the RAW Responsibility programme can be addressed to cr@g-star.com.