

G-Star RAW Materials Policy & Animal Welfare Policy

G-Star RAW Materials Policy

Sustainable Materials is an essential part of G-Star RAW's sustainability strategy. We are committed to ensuring that all raw materials used in our products are grown and manufactured in a responsible way that preserves resources and respects human- and animal rights. 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.

Attention to sustainability starts at the design stage and continues throughout the entire manufacturing process. This makes it important for us to work together with suppliers that share G-Star RAW's values. We outlined the minimum Social and Environmental, Health & Safety (EHS) standards for the manufacturing of our products in the G-Star RAW Supplier Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct refers to the G-Star RAW Materials Policy as the basis for monitoring the use of raw materials for G-Star RAW products. This policy contains restrictions and requirements with respect to the use of raw materials for our products and applies to all our suppliers.

In addition, all suppliers are required to create a traceable and transparent system to keep on file records that provide credible assurance of the origin of the raw materials as described in the G-Star RAW Materials Policy. This information is shared with G-Star RAW on a regular basis.

Cotton

Being a denim brand, cotton represents around 80% of all materials we use. As of 2021, 99% of the cotton we use is sustainably sourced. This includes Recycled Cotton, Organic Cotton, as well as Better Cotton. Read more on our sustainable materials strategy [here](#).

G-Star RAW does not accept any unethical practices in the entire supply chain, including cotton cultivation. This is also defined in our Supplier Code of Conduct. With unethical cotton practices we mean cotton that is cultivated in circumstances without respect for human rights, any form of forced labor, a lack of healthy and safe working conditions for workers and no or limited environmental protection. G-Star RAW prohibits suppliers to source cotton from areas where ethical practices cannot be guaranteed.

Man-made Cellulosic fibers

G-Star RAW 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 encourage this, we became a partner of Canopy back in 2015, an initiative to encourage the fashion industry to avoid sourcing fabrics from ancient and endangered forests. We use the [Canopy Hot Button Ranking](#) for Man-Made Cellulosic fiber sourcing decisions and we give preference to only source from green ranked producers.

G-Star RAW Animal Welfare Policy

Animal Welfare is a very important topic for G-Star RAW. We strive for ethical treatment of animals, meaning that no animal is hurt or subjected to suffering. We do not accept any kind of ill-treatment of animals associated with the manufacturing of our products. Therefore, suppliers should implement international industry best practices for animal welfare on the farm, in transit, at the market or at a place of slaughter, based on internationally recognized [Five Freedoms For Animal Welfare](#). The five freedoms are:

1. **Freedom from Hunger and Thirst** by ready access to fresh water and diet to maintain full health and vigor. This must be specific to the animal.
2. **Freedom from Discomfort** by providing appropriate conditions and facilities including shelter and a comfortable resting area, whether indoors or outdoors.
3. **Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease** by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment, for instance vaccinating animals, treating any injuries and providing appropriate medications.
4. **Freedom to Express Normal Behavior** by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind.
5. **Freedom from Fear and Distress** by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering. These conditions can be achieved by preventing overcrowding and providing sufficient enrichment and safe hiding spaces.

We do not use raw materials from 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](#).

We do not use Fur

G-Star RAW prohibits the use of genuine fur.

We do not use Angora and Mohair

G-Star RAW does not want to use these materials as the humane treatment of Mohair goats and Angora rabbits cannot be assured.

We do not use Down or Feathers

We want to prevent the plucking of live geese or force-feeding techniques at any time. Therefore, G-Star RAW banned the use of down and feathers completely as of Fall 2020. Instead, we will use alternatives such as 3M Thinsulate, an insulation made with recycled content, or any other sustainable alternative in the future.

Wool

G-Star RAW only accepts wool from sheeps and lambs that have not been mulesed. Mulesing is a bad-practice used in the wool industry to prevent infections by removing part of the skin around the buttock of a sheep. To guarantee this, in 2025 all virgin wool we use should be either organic or certified on yarn level according to the Responsible Wool Standard ([RWS](#)). In addition, G-Star RAW is also using recycled wool which is certified according to the Recycled Claim Standard ([RCS](#)) or the Global Recycling Standard ([GRS](#)). In line with our new sustainable materials goals, we are aiming to increase the use recycled fibers.

Leather

Today, G-Star RAW only accepts leather as by-product from the meat industry from cows, sheeps, buffalos, goats and pigs. We give preference to leather processed through facilities rated by the [Leather Working Group](#) (LWG) as Gold, Silver or Bronze. Besides this, we are exploring alternatives for leather, such as Yakron or plant-derived materials, as well as recycled leather.