

G-Star RAW Materials Policy & Animal Welfare Policy

G-Star RAW designs for the future. Both in style and in the way we impact the PLANET and PEOPLE around us, in every step of our product lifecycle.

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 G-Star RAW 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. The G-Star RAW Materials Policy contains restrictions and requirements with respect to the use of raw materials for G-Star RAW products and applies to all our suppliers.

G-Star RAW's suppliers are expected to apply this policy to all G-Star RAW products. 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

G-Star RAW's goal for 2020 is to use 100% sustainable cotton and 90% sustainable materials. Being a denim brand, cotton represents 80% of the total materials we use. We define cotton as sustainable cotton when it is:

- **RECYCLED COTTON:** Recycled cotton is produced from post-consumer or post-industrial waste material. The use of recycled cotton generates savings on raw materials, water, chemicals and energy.
- **ORGANIC COTTON:** Organic Cotton fibers are free of toxic pesticides and chemical fertilizers. Growing organic cotton helps to improve soil quality, prevents water contamination and conserves biodiversity. By choosing organic cotton, we can save up to 60% water.
- **BCI COTTON:** G-Star RAW is a partner of the Better Cotton Initiative (BCI). BCI is a mass-balance system and aims to transform cotton production worldwide by developing Better Cotton as a sustainable mainstream commodity. G-Star RAW's statement on BCI is *"By choosing cotton products from G-Star RAW you support more responsibly grown cotton through the Better Cotton Initiative. A first step towards sustainable cotton production"*.

UNETHICAL COTTON PRACTICES

With unethical cotton practices we mean cotton that is cultivated under circumstances without respect for human rights, healthy and safe working conditions for workers and environmental protection. As defined in our Supplier Code of Conduct, G-Star RAW does not accept unethical practices, such as forced labor and the use of child labor, anywhere in the supply chain, including cotton cultivation. G-Star suppliers are prohibited to use cotton from Uzbekistan for G-Star products, as long as the government of Uzbekistan forces adults and children to work in its cotton fields.

Man-made Cellulosic fibers

G-Star RAW is a partner of Canopy, an initiative to encourage the fashion industry to avoid sourcing fabrics from ancient and endangered forests. If not using recycled wood-based and wood-derived fibers or sustainable fibers such as Lenzing and Tencel, G-Star RAW gives preference to source from producers that are rated green in the Canopy Hot Button ranking¹

Furthermore, 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 IUCN Red List as critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable.

G-Star RAW Animal Welfare Policy

G-Star RAW's goal for sustainable materials is to primarily use recycled fibers, as well as fibers that are organic, traceable and/or re-usable by 2025. This also applies for our animal derived materials.

Animal Welfare is a very important topic for G-Star RAW. We strive for ethical treatment. No animal hurt or subjected to suffering. We do not accepted 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 "[The Five Freedoms For Animal Welfare](#)" as defined by the Farm Animal Welfare Council. These Five Freedoms include:

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 on the IUCN² (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List

We do not use fur

G-Star RAW prohibits the use of genuine fur.

¹ <https://hotbutton.canopyplanet.org/>

² <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

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 bans the use of down and feathers completely as of Fall 2020. Instead, we will use alternative such as 3M Thinsulate or any other sustainable alternatives in the future.

Wool

In 2025 we will primarily use recycled wool in our products.

Leading up to achieving this goal G-Star RAW only accepts wool from sheeps 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 the welfare of the sheep, we all our virgin wool will be RWS certified according to the Responsible Wool Standard¹ by 2021.

Cashmere

The amount of Cashmere we use in our collections is very limited. When using Cashmere we aim to exclusively use recycled Cashmere. At this moment there are no standards or certifications for virgin cashmere available. Once such a standard or certification is available, we will explore if this enables us to use virgin Cashmere as alternative for recycled Cashmere.

Leather

By 2025 we aim to use recycled leather or LWG Gold or Silver certified leather.

Today, G-Star RAW only accepts leather from cows, sheeps, buffalos, goats and pigs. We only use leather as by-product from the meat industry. We give preference to leather processed through facilities rated by the Leather Working group² (LWG) as Gold, Silver or Bronze. We aim to have all our leather LWG Gold or Silver certified by 2025.

Besides this, we are exploring alternatives for leather, such as Yakron or plant-derived materials, as well as recycled leather.

Silk

The amount of Silk in our collections is very limited. If using Silk we strive to use the most sustainable alternative in today's market.

¹ <https://responsiblewool.org/>

² <https://www.leatherworkinggroup.com/>