

MATALAN COTTON FIBRE SOURCING POLICY

At Matalan we recognise sourcing our raw material sustainably with ethical provenance is equally critical of sourcing the best raw material to enhance and deliver the best quality products to our customers. We take ethical sourcing extremely seriously and have a robust ethical sourcing policy in place to ensure our supply chain is transparent and closely monitored.

We recognise our responsibility to the environment, so we are taking every measure to minimise the environmental impact caused by these raw materials while still committed to deliver more sustainably sourced products with best value & quality to our customers. But we also recognise the challenges ahead of us and we won't get this 100% accurate but we believe if we change the way we look at things, the things you look at will change and make our contribution to create a better planet for the future generation.

We made significant changes over the years on how we source our products, where we source and how to be transparent.

Cotton

Cotton is one of the most versatile plants in the world. From its natural fibre to its seeds, cotton can be used in many ways. Apart from clothing and bedding, cotton can be used variety of commodities, but the most common use of cotton is in the textile industry because of its naturally enhanced soft hand feel, durability, highly absorbent and breathable are distinguishing characteristics makes it the most popular fibre in the textile industry. However growing cotton leaves an environmental footprint, due to the large amount of water and pesticides used to grow cotton.

What are we doing?

Matalan partners with Better Cotton & member of better cotton Initiative to improve cotton farming globally. Better Cotton supports farmers to grow cotton sustainably, while helping to improve their working conditions and a higher standard of living who grow them while confronting inequalities and supporting women to become more empowered.

Matalan have been sourcing Better Cotton via system of mass balance. Mass Balance is a volume- tracking system that allows Better Cotton to be substituted or mixed with conventional ensuring that the amount of Better Cotton sold never exceeds the amount of Better Cotton purchased at all levels of textile supply chain.

While staying committed to Better Cotton Initiative, Matalan is transitioning to source Better Cotton via Physical Traceable Better Cotton system. This system will allow to trace Physical Better Cotton back to country of origin compared to current mass balance system.

What we achieved

- In 2024, an estimated 6.2 Billion Litres of water were saved thanks to our sourcing of Better Cotton.
- In 2024, there was a contribution to an estimate avoidance of 856 kg of pesticide active ingredient by sourcing Better Cotton
- In 2024, Better Cotton Farmers benefited from an estimated 937,752 EUR additional profit* thanks to our sourcing of Better Cotton

*Better Cotton Farmers experience profit increases for a variety of reasons, most commonly due to increased yields and/or optimised use of inputs (such as irrigation water, pesticides, or synthetic fertiliser).