

# Textiles & Cotton



## Overview

## Cotton Sourcing & Traceability

## Organic Cotton

Cotton and textiles are an integral part of Costco's business, particularly within our apparel and home textiles offerings. We recognize some of the challenges in textile production (e.g., forced labor issues in the cotton industry, and environmental issues with producing synthetic fabrics) and as a result, we have focused on efforts to trace our cotton sources and ensure our items containing recycled textiles are certified to specific global standards.

Costco began a cotton traceability program in 2019 to further understand where the cotton in our Kirkland Signature™ apparel is coming from. In 2020, we enhanced this program to include supply chain mapping and third-party traceability document verification. More information can be found on the "Human Rights" page in our [People & Communities section](#). In addition, our Kirkland Signature products made from Pima and/or extra-long staple length (ELS) cotton require DNA testing protocols to verify these species. DNA testing is completed in multiple stages of the supply chain.

For our organic cotton products globally, manufacturers claiming organic cotton must either be certified by Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) or the Organic Cotton Standard if the cotton quantity is less than 70%. GOTS is the global industry leader in certifying textiles processing for organic fibers, including cotton. The GOTS system certifies the product throughout the entire textile supply chain, ensuring the organic status of cotton from raw materials to the end consumer. The Organic Content Standard ensures that the organic cotton is maintained throughout the supply chain, from feedstock to final product, by combining chain of custody requirements with clear rules for the use of certified organic inputs and labeling claims.

## Recycled Textiles

Recycled fabric technology continues to be popular in the textile industry, especially in light of sustainability goals in the apparel and home goods industries. Benefits of recycled textiles include lower energy usage in production and a reduction in the need for virgin materials. As a result, at Costco we look to source recycled textiles for our items, with the exception of recycled cotton. To ensure recycled textile claims are verified and validated, Costco requires one of the three approved certifications: the Recycled Claim Standard (RCS), the Global Recycled Standard (GRS) or REPREVE®.

