

Textiles & Cotton



Overview

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.

Cotton Sourcing & Traceability

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. 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.

Organic Cotton

For all our organic cotton products globally, manufacturers claiming organic cotton must be certified by Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS). 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.

Kirkland Signature Bed Sheets

Kirkland Signature Bed Sheets are made from Pima cotton grown in the Central Valley of California. Through a patented technology, a program to test the traceability of cotton fiber through the entire supply chain has been established. This helps track the purity of the cotton and verify the manufacturing process from the fields to our shelves. More information can be found in this [Cotton Traceability video](#).



One of the farms that grows extra-long staple (ELS) cotton used for our Kirkland Signature Bed Sheets is the [Bowles Farming Company \(BFCo\)](#), a family-owned and operated farm in California. Beyond compliance with regulatory requirements, BFCo has initiated programs and practices focused on protecting workers and the environment in the areas of soil health, climate change and water conservation. To learn more about these efforts, visit this article: [Bowles Farming Company](#).

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. At Costco we look to source recycled textiles for our items. 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®.

