

IKEA FAQ

CHEMICALS IN TEXTILES

Fewer chemicals against your skin

Quilts and pillows must not contain any hazardous substances. And IKEA always strives to minimise the use of chemicals in the production of textiles.

What is the IKEA view on chemicals and safe textiles?

Customers should always feel confident that products bought at IKEA are safe and healthy to use. IKEA products must not contain any harmful chemical substances. They shall fulfil all legal requirements, but they shall also fulfil, or even exceed, customer expectations. Whenever possible, IKEA takes the strictest existing legal requirements and applies them globally on all products on all our sales markets.

IKEA works precautionary and has phased out several chemicals that could potentially be harmful, often ahead of legislation.



STILLSAMT bed textile

What is the IKEA approach to chemicals used in the textile industry?

The work on chemicals is aimed at avoiding any harmful effects to health and environment, throughout the whole life cycle. When setting chemical restrictions, we take into account both production including co-workers and people in the supply chain and use of the product - our customers.

Do any hazardous chemicals stay in the final product?

No. Chemicals are washed away before the end of the production process and the waste water is processed separately in a water treatment plant. We have very strict requirements on chemical residues in the final products.

How do you manage the waste water from the production process?

Suppliers are obligated to treat all waste-water. This is done in an effluent treatment plant. Laws and regulations related to waste-water have to be followed. IKEA perform random checks to analyse the treated water to secure it is purified in the correct way.

Which chemical substances have IKEA phased out in textiles during the years?

Chlorine for bleaching: Banned since 2005.

Dyestuff for colours: Bans on certain dyestuffs e.g. disperse dye, direct dye, basic dye or azo dyes, that are known to be carcinogenic or allergenic.

PVC: Banned since 1991.

Formaldehyde: Banned since 1991 in textile products.

APEO: Banned since 2002 against the usage of chemicals containing APEO (NPEO and OPEO).

Organic solvents: Banned since 1998.

Flame retardants: IKEA uses flame retardants in as few cases as possible i.e. only when required by legislation in certain markets. Brominated flame retardants are banned since 1998.

PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances): Banned in textiles since 2016.

How does IKEA know that requirements are followed?

All IKEA products go through a thorough testing process before being put on the market. In order to secure compliance to the requirements IKEA does regular verifying tests both on material and final products. IKEA also carries out random checks and audits.

Does IKEA have a policy on pesticide usage during the cultivation of cotton?

Yes. IKEA was a founding member of the Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) and takes an active role in the work. Since August 2015 all cotton used for IKEA products is Better Cotton and compliant with BCI social and environmental criteria.

