

The environment, ecology and sustainability statement

Bute Fabrics Ltd was launched in 1947 by the then Lord Bute as an altruistic gesture to provide skilled employment for servicemen returning from WWII. The Bute Family has throughout the generations been very well aware of legacy and each Lord Bute has in turn been careful to use their wealth for both continuity of the line and for artistic and further altruistic purposes. This ethos is imbued in Bute Fabrics. Being a wholly owned company of the Bute Family we have no need for every decision to be based on profit. Social responsibility including employment on the Isle of Bute goes hand in hand with sustainability and environmentally positive purchasing decisions.

Bute Fabrics' has always woven with wool. Bute's long standing reputation for quality and durability of product has always been based on the use of 85% or more of Pure New Wool in all the fabrics offered in the Bute Collection. In fact over 90% of sales from the Bute Collection have over 90% Pure New Wool by fibre content.

Pure New Wool is a naturally grown hair on carefully tended sheep. This is an easily Bute's long standing reputation for quality and durability of product has always been based on the use of 85% or more of Pure New Wool in all the fabrics offered in the Bute Collection. The hair is shorn regularly throughout the long life of the sheep. The continual harvesting of wool as a crop means that the farmers take good care of the sheep during their lifetime. We only buy wool from those farmers that are third party accredited and do not use banned pesticides and sheep-dip chemicals.

Wool fibres are organic. At the end of any of the Bute Collection's working life our materials can be 100% re-cycled. Wool has excellent heat retention and/or sound absorption qualities in recycled materials.

All our packaging materials, both of incoming yarns and outgoing finished fabric are 100% re-cycled. All yarn and fabric waste produced during the manufacturing process is sold and recycled into other products.

All the wool content in the Bute Collection is 100% bio-degradable. All fabrics in the Bute Collection are 100% recyclable. Wool is both hypo-allergenic and ecologically sound.

All of our finished fabrics are technically inert. They contain no toxins that could cause irritation on contact or be released into the environment. All of our suppliers, spinners, dyers and finishers use substances in the processing of yarns and fabrics that meet all environmentally favourable existing legislation and ordinances. Bute Fabrics and all our processors are accredited ISO regulation 14001.

Wool uses one tenth of the energy needed to produce a comparable quantity of synthetic product. Synthetics are energy and water intensive, use carcinogenic chemicals to produce and are not degradable. All synthetics need oil wells, oil tankers and oil refineries.

Wool's springy fibres maintain excellent appearance retention long after installation without looking flat or shiny. Wool is difficult to ignite and is highly fire retardant. Wool has a natural protective layer of lanoline which delays spills from being absorbed. This gives some time for the spill to be cleaned up. Wool is inherently resistant to dust and grime due to the fibre properties needed to keep sheep from health problems. It is inherently anti-static. Wool is low thermal conductor, it is warm in cold weather as it doesn't conduct heat away from the skin and cool in hot temperatures as it does conduct heat to the skin. Wool is a good humidity regulator, it can absorb up to one third of its own weight without feeling wet. Wool promotes better air quality by filtering out harmful pollutants.

Wool does not melt, drip, or release noxious fumes – all causes of fire related fatalities.

An investment in wool interior products is a lifestyle choice, an environmentally significant choice that is also a choice for the planet.

Bute Fabrics conform to REACH requirements.