

Recycled Materials

Name	Source	Method	Comments
Recycled Rubber	Most commonly sourced from the 1.5 billion car tyres disposed of annually.	Tyres are cleaned, crumbed and then go through a series of complex chemical processes to produce sheets of leather look material.	Recycled rubber is heavy, and often retains a rubber aroma. Although it has a relatively high tensile strength, it lacks body and requires additional support for bag construction. Only available in black.
Bonded Leather	Tannery off-cuts and trimmings	The leather is shredded to powder then mixed with bonding agents and adhesive and rolled out into sheets. It may then be coated to give it a faux grain texture.	Bonded leather can contain as little as 20% genuine leather and it is not as durable as leather. It can be hard to clean and surface finishes may degrade over time.
Ocean Plastic	Recovered waste including industrial plastics, waste fabrics, and fishing nets.	Waste is sorted into types, shredded and washed to remove any residual non-plastic. It is then formed into resin pellets that can be melted and turned into yarn.	Most true ocean waste is too degraded and expensive to recover, so the majority of product is made from land based waste with a minor percentage either collected from beaches or costal waters. Processing costs mean that fabric is at least 50% more expensive.
Recycled Polyester	Made from recycled plastic bottles.	Bottles are chemical recycled through a process of granulation, purification, and polymerisation to create a recycled polyester yarn and fabric. PET is also used in zips and hardware.	It requires less than half the energy to produce than virgin Polyester, but the process isn't infinitely repeatable. Each time it goes through recycling the quality declines and it has to be used for lower grade products. There is also an argument that the recycled bottles could equally be used to make new bottles, reducing the volume of virgin PET produced.
Recycled Cotton	Made from clothing waste.	Discarded clothes are sorted by colour and mechanically shredded. The resultant fibres are spun into yarns and re-woven.	Because the fibres from the shredded fabric are shorter than new cotton, they are harder and more expensive to process. They also have less strength and are often blended with polyester, nylon or acrylic to increse their longevity.
Recycled Felt	Made from discarded textiles, corporate clothing, uniforms and plastic bottles.	Fabrics are sherdedded into fine fibres before processing into felt. Plastic bottles go through the same processing as PET fabric.	Utilises items destined for landfill that won't biodegrade. Like PET fabric, producing a product that cannot be repeatedly recycled does not solve the issue of ultimate safe disposal.