





The environmental impact of the fashion industry often grabs the headlines, but have you ever thought about the effects of your workwear? Most is made from artificial fibres such as polyester because they are durable and easy to care for. However, polyester is also a fossil fuel derived plastic.

It's possible to reduce the negative effects of artificial fibres by choosing items manufactured wholly or in part from more sustainable raw materials, such as recycled textiles. This means a second life for materials such as plastic bottles which may otherwise not be recycled and, crucially, less demand for virgin plastic and the oil it's made from.

Choosing workwear made from recycled polyester is simple and straightforward now workwear is one of the product categories included in Better World Products. All Better World Products have improved sustainability in at least one stage of the product's lifecycle and this improvement has been verified by an internationally recognised sustainability certification or energy efficiency standard. Each item of workwear included in Better World Products, for instance, has received Global Recycled Standard certification.



**Click here** for more information

Here is our guide to the workwear options available, factors to consider when purchasing workwear and our Better World Products workwear recommendations.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

We have a <u>glossary</u> explaining definitions used in the Better World Products range as well as other common sustainability terms.



### THE OPTIONS AVAILABLE

Workwear comes in a variety of options including:

- Material composition
- Sizes
- Material thickness
- Colours

Designs

• Suitability for different environments

Features

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

The Personal Protective Equipment at Work (Amendment) Regulations 2022 include "clothing affording protection against the weather" in the definition of PPE that employers must provide to any employee exposed to health and safety risks during their time at work.



### **FACTORS TO CONSIDER**

Questions to ask when choosing workwear to purchase for your organisation include:

- Is this an appropriate product for the task?
  - The criteria for selecting workwear will differ depending on the environment it is to be worn in. Does the thickness of the material, for example, make it suitable for indoors, outdoors or both?
- Who will be wearing the products?
  - Most workwear comes in a wide range of sizes, but you still need to ensure that it will fit employees safely, securely and comfortably. Choosing explicitly gender-neutral styles can help with this.
- Are there features to support comfort?
  - Employees will have to wear these items, often for many hours at a time, so it's important to choose products that have been designed to maximise comfort. This will encourage compliance too.
- Are there features to support the role being undertaken?
  Workwear must never hinder employees when executing their roles.
  The right products, however, can go further than this and proactively support the task in hand. Look for practical details such as secure pockets. Again, this will encourage compliance.

- Are there features that make the item more durable?
  - Workwear is subject to more intense wear and tear than regular clothing so be alert to design elements that ensure strength and longevity such as taped seams and pocket reinforcements. Extending the life of clothing means fewer replacement are required, which is more sustainable as well as more cost effective.
- Are detailed care instructions provided?
  - To ensure longer life, workwear should be washed and dried according to manufacturer's care instructions.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

The Health and Safety Executive has a factsheet outlining employer and employee obligations regarding high-vis clothing.

A focus on - Workwear



Find out more about other **Better World Products** that can help you achieve your sustainability goals



#### RN FALCON EARTHPRO® FLEECE

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#### **Specifications:**

- Gender neutral style
- Three external pockets
- · Elastic bound cuff and elasticated hem with side adjust for comfort and a better fit
- Twin needle stitched seams for durability
- 300gsm weight, making it ideal for use in a range of indoor and outdoor environments

#### **Environmental credentials:**

- 100% recycled polyester made from post-consumer plastic materials
- · Recycled zips
- Global Recycled Standard

Available in black and navy and nine sizes from XS to 5XL.

For more on why the Orn Falcon EarthPro® Fleece is one of our Better World Products, <u>check out</u> its datasheet.

Find out more about other <u>Better</u> <u>World Products</u> that can help you achieve your sustainability goals



#### **ORN OSPREY EARTHPRO® POLOSHIRT**



#### **Specifications**

- Premium weight of 220gsm
- Suitable for manual work in a wide range of environments
- Padded taped neckline for comfort
- · Triple stitched on all main seams for enhanced durability and quality

#### **Environmental credentials**

- Made from 35% cotton and 65% recycled polyester from post-consumer materials
- Global Recycled Standard

Available in navy, black, graphite and nine sizes from XS to 5XL.

For more on why the Orn Osprey EarthPro® Poloshirt is one of our Better World Products, <u>check out</u> its datasheet.

Find out more about other **Better World Products** that can help you achieve your sustainability goals



#### RN KESTREL EARTHPRO® SWEATSHIRT

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#### **Specifications**

- · Premium weight of 320gsm
- Elasticated cuffs, neck and waistband for premium comfort and fit
- Padded, taped neckline and brushed inner fleece for comfort
- · Triple stitched on all main seams for enhanced durability
- Suitable for use in a range of indoor and outdoor environments

#### **Environmental credentials**

- Made from 35% cotton and 65% recycled polyester from post-consumer materials
- Global Recycled Standard

Available in navy, black, graphite and nine sizes from XS to 5XL.

For more on why the Orn Kestrel EarthPro® Sweatshirt is one of our Better World Products, <u>check out</u> its datasheet.

Find out more about other **Better World Products** that can help you achieve your sustainability goals



#### ORN HAWK DELUXE EARTHPRO® TROUSER

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#### **Specifications**

- · Combat style with multiple pockets
- 245gsm weight
- Slightly elasticated waistband for that perfect fit
- · Reflective trim for visibility and safety
- · Triple stitched main seams for durability
- · Suitable for manual work in a range of indoor or outdoor environments

#### **Environmental credentials**

- Made from 35% cotton and 65% recycled polyester from post-consumer materials
- Global Recycled Standard

Available navy and black and in thirteen sizes from 28 to 52. Each size is available in three lengths: short (29"), regular (32") and tall (35").

For more on why the Orn Hawk Deluxe EarthPro® Trouser is one of our Better World Products check out its datasheet.

Find out more about other **Better World Products** that can help you achieve your sustainability goals