

SUSTAINABILITY SOLUTIONS MICROFIBRE SHEDDING ASSESSMENT

Understanding the impact of fabrics and clothing for progressing towards a more sustainable supply chain

Microfibre pollution is of great concern within the clothing supply chain. Every time, we wash synthetic fabrics like nylon, polyester, acrylic or spandex, very small pieces of plastic break off and flow down the drain into the rivers and oceans. Microfibres are mistakenly ingested by marine animals and cause hazardous effects to aquatic species.

Microfibres pollutant was estimated to have

13 million tonnes

of coastal synthetic fabric waste entering the ocean each year

Source: Marine Pollution Bulletin

The Problem

Textile washing is considered to be a large source of microfibre pollution with an estimated 35% of primary microfibre entering oceans from the laundering process. This is "causing 16 times more pollution than microbeads from cosmetics, which are now banned from products in the UK"*. Considering the current research and evidence, the questions your company and customers will be asking are:

- Does the clothing we sell contribute to the microfibre pollution issue?
- What actions are we taking as a business to address this problem?
- Are our garments made from synthetic fibres that shed excessively during washing?
- How is industry seeking to minimize the damage from microfibre pollution?

By benchmarking using analytical evaluation, you will better understand the impact your garment fibres are having on the marine environment.



Our Solutions

At Intertek, our collective aim is to reduce the impact of fibre shedding from textiles. This endeavor is a part of our commitment to bring quality, safety and sustainability to life. Our Intertek's microfibre shedding assessment is a modification of the AATCC 61 for accuracy, which helps with an improved understanding of the impact of clothing fragmentation on the marine environment. This is achieved by analyzing wastewater produced during simulated domestic laundering processes. The test conditions replicate real-world scenarios, including temperature, abrasive action, and microfibre loss similar to that in home laundering. The abrasive action is a result of the frictional effects of fabric against canister, the low liquor ratio and the impact of the steel balls on the fabric. Intertek has 10+ labs accredited by The Microfibre Consortium (TMC) to perform microfibre testing with the TMC Test Method globally. Intertek is also a signatory for the Microfibre 2030 Commitment.





Intertek also conducts microfibre shedding

testing according to AATCC TM212-2021, the Test Method for Fiber Fragment Release During Home Laundering to assess microfibre shedding textiles and apparel, and ISO 4484-1: 2023 testing for Microplastics from textile sources.

Your Benefits

- Give you a clearer understanding of microfibre shedding status of your product after laundering.
- Support your selection of fabrics with less microfibre shedding and more ocean friendly.
- Assist to set up and classify your green fabric database with microfibre shedding data.

Why Intertek?

- End-to-end Total Quality Assurance Solutions in Assurance, Testing, Inspection and Certification
- Total Quality Assurance Customer Promise: Precision, Pace and Passion
- Innovative and bespoke solutions tailored to every customer's needs.

