



SUSTAINABILITY

tapetex wall materials

est. 1975

At Tapetex, our mission is clear; to become the world's leading manufacturer of sustainable textile wallcoverings. Sustainability is not a choice, it's our responsibility. Our actions today shape the world of tomorrow, and it's our duty to ensure that future generations inherit a planet that thrives, not just survives.

Our vision

Since 1975, Tapetex Wall Materials has been a pioneer in designing, producing, and distributing woven and nonwoven textile wallcoverings for both the international contract market and the higher end of the residential market. Throughout our journey, from design to manufacturing to transportation, we remain committed to minimizing our environmental footprint.

Our reputation is built on innovative production methods using natural raw materials. We don't just create aesthetically pleasing products; we take pride in crafting clean and conscious solutions that infuse natural beauty into every space. At Tapetex, our passion lies in preserving nature, and our aspiration is to lead the world as the premier manufacturer of sustainable textile wallcoverings. Our unwavering focus on natural materials allows us to set the industry standard and guide its direction.

Sustainability is a complex concept often misconstrued. It encompasses not only sustainable raw materials but also sustainable processes, a responsible workforce, conscious packaging, and sustainable transport. At Tapetex, we take our social responsibility seriously, integrating all these elements into one integrated concept.

In this document, we detail our comprehensive sustainability approach.

“NATURE IS OUR FOUNDATION AND OUR FUTURE,”



Sustainable manufacturing

At Tapetex, we prioritize manufacturing our products with the utmost consideration for the environment. Our commitment to sustainability is evident in every aspect of our production process. We are highly conscious of our energy consumption and have invested in cutting-edge machinery that is meticulously managed for energy efficiency. Our energy sources are green, harnessing wind and solar power. Our lighting system is state-of-the-art, utilizing spot-controlled LED lighting to minimize energy usage.

Our entire production process is 100% water-based, and all finishes employed adhere to the stringent standards set forth by the European Chemical REACH Regulations.

We continually strive to reduce our resource consumption, minimizing surpluses and waste at every opportunity. Notably, a significant portion of the water we use in our facility is harvested rainwater collected from our roofs.

Spanning three production halls, our textile and nonwoven materials benefit from an extensive array of finishing options. Coupled with our advanced machinery and the expertise and dedication of our workforce, Tapetex consistently delivers top-quality, eco-friendly products.

Responsible supply chain

At Tapetex, our commitment to responsible supply chain management is the bedrock of delivering exceptional products. We recognize that true excellence extends beyond our own walls, and close collaboration with our entire production chain is essential to achieving our mission of creating sustainable, top-quality products.

We take a proactive approach to ensure that our supply chain partners adhere to our stringent environmental, ethical, and safety standards. Through an ongoing monitoring and verification process, we maintain the highest level of compliance, ensuring that our products not only meet but exceed the expected industry standards.

Our suppliers are not just partners; they are integral members of the Tapetex family. They are well-informed about our unwavering commitment to sustainability and the meticulous standards and protocols we have set in place. We believe that it's not only our responsibility to uphold these standards but also to be a guiding light, helping our suppliers adopt environmentally friendly production methods and fostering a sustainable workforce.

Our goal at Tapetex is clear – to create a positive ripple effect throughout our entire production chain, one that reverberates with the values of sustainability, ethics, and excellence. By working together with our partners and suppliers, we aim to leave a lasting impact that extends far beyond the products we create.

In-house advancing

Our dedication to minimizing our environmental footprint extends across our entire manufacturing process. This reflects in our constant aim on improving environmental protection and efficient use of resources in production. We actively endorse initiatives aimed at reducing our in-house resource consumption, actively promote recycling practices, and work diligently to raise awareness among our employees.



1

PRODUCTION
LOCATION

55

EMPLOYEES
WORLDWIDE

2500

HOURS OF
TRAINING-EDUCATION
PER YEAR

Sustainable workforce

A sustainable workforce is central to Tapetex's mission, focusing on long-term well-being, productivity, and positive social and environmental impacts. Our workforce consists of dedicated employees with fixed 38-hour weekly contracts. We've balanced workload by implementing automation to eliminate heavy manual tasks, placing a strong emphasis on quality over quantity.

This sustainable workforce is crucial not only for employee well-being but also for our organization's long-term success and reputation. It aligns with our commitment to corporate sustainability, supporting the triple bottom line of people, planet, and profit. In addressing global climate concerns, Tapetex sees the development of a sustainable workforce as a vital responsibility alongside our sustainable raw materials and production processes.

Wellbeing of employees

The wellbeing of employees, is a crucial aspect of any organization's success and a reflection of its commitment to its workforce. Employee wellbeing at Tapetex, encompasses physical and mental health, including access to a safe and healthy work environment, ergonomic workstations, and offering daily healthy food options that promote a healthy lifestyle. All employees work only in day shifts, measuring comfortable start and end times, without overwork or night shifts.

Also, one of our priorities is the well-being and personal and professional growth of our employees. Every employee is able to receive professional development and training yearly. Employees can choose between specific courses aimed at various functional positions and roles.



Sustainable raw materials

Tapetex stands out through its expertise in utilizing natural materials. Our specialization in this area drives us to conduct thorough investigations into the origins of these materials and to continually seek innovation in their application.

In addition to our well-known linen and silks-collections, we also use natural materials such as; cotton, viscose, sisal, wood pulp, and wool.

All these materials are sustainable and renewable because of their recurring natural process of annual growth. With our preference of using the natural materials with the least impact on the environment.

In stark contrast, artificial products like polyester or vinyl lack the innate regenerative quality found in nature. These fibers fail to replenish annually and fall short of sustainability standards.



Linen

Linen grows and flourishes in an inexhaustible cyclical process and can be replenished every year, therefore this fiber is considered sustainable.

Linen is a textile made from the fibers of the plant *Linum Usitatissimum* (flax plant), which is a graceful plant that grows up to one meter high and produces attractive blue flowers.

The best growing conditions for linen can be found in Europe where the cool, damp regions of northern France, Belgium and The Netherlands provide a perfect environment.

Besides being sustainable, linen is also known as one of the oldest and strongest fibers in the world. The manufacturing of linen cloth in Northern Europe dates back to Neolithic times. Since its origin, linen is an exclusive traditional fabric, used for Cleopatra's dresses and Rembrandt's artist canvas.

Another characteristic fact about linen is its hypoallergenic function. It is resistant to dust mites and allergens, making it an excellent material choice for people with allergies or sensitive skin in home environments.

For many years now we work together with our linen weaving mill who work with new techniques to create beautiful linen fabrics from flax. They meet our health, safety and environmental standards, are based locally and are carbon neutral since 2014.





Silk

Silk is a 100% renewable natural source. The legend of silk goes back to the year 2640 BC. The Chinese were the first to domesticate the silk worm 'Bombyx Mori,' which exclusively feeds on Mulberry trees and spins a single continuous silk thread within its cocoon, reaching lengths of up to 1.600 meters. This thread is composed of fibroin (a protein) encased in sericin, a binding substance.

The process begins with hand-harvesting and reeling the cocoons in water to collect the continuous filament. Multiple cocoons are joined to create a single silk thread, known as Raw Silk, which undergoes cleaning, degumming, dyeing, and weaving. Degumming softens the yarn and enhances its signature luster, achieved by the triangular prism-like structure of silk fibers that refract light.

Occasionally, twin silkworms spin double cocoons, resulting in coarse, uneven yarn called dupion yarn, adding a natural texture and slubs to the fabric. The natural appearance of silk, complete with its irregularities is determined by many factors but mainly the type of caterpillar, habitat and reeling method. Even today, silk is still a true artisanal product, in which almost all steps in the production process are still done by hand, a craft passed on from generation to generation.



Nonwoven

The sustainability of nonwoven materials hinges on both the fiber source and the production methods used. At Tapetex, we exclusively utilize natural sources, such as plant-based fibers. One prominent example is cellulose, sourced from materials like wood pulp. Our nonwoven wallcoverings consist of FSC-certified wood pulp, strengthened with a small amount of polyester to enhance dimensional stability. As a result, our nonwoven products are both renewable and biodegradable, making a positive contribution to sustainability.

Our wood pulp is sourced from carefully managed Scandinavian forests, where natural fibers extracted from trees serve various purposes, including paper and cardboard production. In line with our commitment to sustainability, all our nonwoven wallcoverings are crafted from FSC-certified wood pulp, with the addition of a small percentage of polyester for improved stability.

In the realm of indoor air quality, sustainable nonwoven wall materials shine by minimizing the release of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), which are harmful chemicals found in certain wall materials. Our products consistently achieve low-to-zero VOC emissions, ensuring a healthier indoor environment.

Furthermore, our dedication to sustainability extends to the backing of all products in our collections. Each one is supported by FSC-certified paper, offering stability during application and reinforcing our commitment to environmentally responsible practices.





SILK

FLAX

WOOL

WOOD

COTTON

Other used natural materials


Driven by our commitment to utilizing exclusively natural materials, we consistently explore and experiment with additional renewable sources. This dedication extends to our goal of processing the natural materials we've been using for years in a fully sustainable, eco-friendly production process. Other natural materials we work with in our collections are wool, cotton, viscose, and sisal.

Wool is a sustainable and versatile choice for wall materials, combining its natural, renewable, and eco-friendly attributes with its aesthetic and functional benefits. Its rapid renewability, biodegradability, recyclability and potential organic production, aligns with the principles of sustainability and contributes to creating healthier, more environmentally responsible interior spaces.

Cotton's popularity in the textile industry stems from its natural comfort and breathability. Its renewable, and biodegradable fiber, is making it an excellent choice as an environmentally-friendly fiber throughout its entire product life cycle.

Viscose is derived from cellulose, a natural polymer found in the cell walls of coniferous trees. The thick liquid viscous mass is pressed through a spinneret with a fine hole, creating a thread. Viscose can mimic the look and feel of natural fibers like cotton, silk, and wool. This versatility allows it to be used for a wide range of textile applications.

Sisal stands out as an eco-friendly fiber due to its biodegradability and minimal use of pesticides or fertilizers during cultivation. This durable material is derived from the Agave plant.

An aerial photograph of a road winding through a dense forest. The trees are in various stages of autumn, with some showing bright yellow and orange leaves, while others remain green. A white truck is visible on the road, moving away from the viewer. The road is a two-lane asphalt road with white lane markings.

Packaging and transport

Tapetex is known for her innovative production of natural raw materials, the trouble-free quality and the ability to ship even large quantities from the central stock at the factory in Helmond, the Netherlands, immediately.

Our commitment to environmental responsibility extends to packaging design, with a primary focus on secure deliveries while striving to minimize ecological impact. We exclusively employ recyclable cardboard for packaging. Moreover, our packaging dimensions are meticulously tailored to match our wallcovering rolls, optimizing space efficiency and enabling more eco-friendly truck loading.

In terms of transportation, we collaborate with logistics partners whose vehicles adhere to the Euro VI standard. These partners actively share in the responsibility of steering the transport sector toward a sustainable future. They achieve this by streamlining customer supply chains, pioneering sustainable solutions, and demonstrating responsible resource utilization.

CE-Certified

All our textile wallcoverings have a CE marking, which guarantees the products comply with the European health, safety and environmental protection standards.

Our woven and nonwoven wallcovering products have one of the following CE markings:

- DoP-CPR-13001 - woven cellulosic
- DoP-CPR-13002 - woven cellulosic-synthetic
- DoP-CPR-13003 - woven animal
- DoP-CPR-13004 - woven animal-synthetic
- DoP-CPR-13005 - woven synthetic
- DoP-CPR-13006 - nonwoven onelayer
- DoP-CPR-13007 - nonwoven multilayer

REACH-Certified

REACH, a European regulation, focuses on the production and utilization of chemical substances and their potential effects on human health and the environment. Tapetex adheres to the European REACH regulations governing the registration and utilization of chemical substances.

FSC-Certified

Biodegradable and recyclable paper from materials sourced from responsibly managed forests, consisting of pure cellulose with at least 25% recovered fibres and produced in adherence with sustainability criteria during its processing.

Our nonwoven wallcoverings are all made of FSC certified woodpulp reinforced with a small percentage of polyester for dimensional stability. All the products of our collection are backed with FSC certified paper for stability and easy application.

Carbon Neutral

A carbon neutrality certification, is a recognition awarded to organizations or products that have effectively measured, reduced, and offset their carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions to a net-zero level.

This means we have taken steps to minimize our carbon footprint. This involves a comprehensive assessment of emissions associated with energy consumption, transportation, production, and other activities. Any remaining emissions are compensated for through verified carbon offset projects.

PVC-Free

The use of PVC (polyvinyl chloride) in manufacturing processes and its potential for emitting toxic substances during decomposition pose significant environmental concerns. At Tapetex, we are steadfast in our commitment to environmental responsibility. We ensure that every aspect of our company's operations revolves around the creation of PVC-free products and a sustainable environment.

We view it as our ongoing mission and responsibility to continually innovate in the realm of sustainable materials and manufacturing processes.

100% Bio Based

The 100% bio-based certificate is a distinction granted to products, materials, or processes exclusively originating from renewable biological sources. This certification underscores the complete absence of fossil fuel-based or synthetic components in both composition and production.

At Tapetex, our commitment to natural and biodegradable raw materials is widely recognized, with approximately 90% of our collection items falling under the bio-based category.





Surface finish

A stain repellent finish, applied to all wall materials, prevents waterbased splashes penetrating and staining the material. Periodic vacuuming is recommended to prevent dust from building up on the materials surface.



Fire retardancy

Fire retardancy pertains to a substance's capacity to hinder or decelerate the propagation of fire. Consequently, all Tapetex products undergo impregnation to meet the stringent standards of Euroclass and ASTM. All Tapetex products hold fire ratings compliant with Euroclass and ASTM E84 Class 1 or A requirements.



Light Reflectance Values (LRV)

LRV is a measurement indicating how much light a colour reflects back into the room. All Tapetex products are tested as per BS 8493:2008+A1:2010.



Water Vapor Transmission and mold

This test quantifies the rate at which moisture permeates a material within a specified timeframe, denoted in 'perm levels.' A higher perm level signifies greater moisture permeability, which is advantageous in mold prevention. For instance, our linen, being a natural material that allows for breathability, boasts a perm level of approximately 55, whereas the U.S. perm level standard for vinyl wallcovering stands at 1.



Indoor air quality

Indoor air quality is assessed based on test data that reveal the emissions from the specified products and their adherence to the emission criteria established by the Greenguard and Greenguard Gold standards.

In this regard, all Tapetex products not only meet these standards but also surpass the most stringent Greenguard Gold criteria applicable to offices and classrooms.



Lightfastness

Every Tapetex product undergoes testing in accordance with ISO 105-B02:2014, with an exposure period lasting 216 hours before concluding the test. The lightfastness results provide insight into the rate at which a color fades when exposed to sunlight.

All test results and other relevant information can be found on www.tapetex.com