

# KOALA BAMBOO

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## Bamboo Verses Cotton

### Why choose a bamboo fabric item over a cotton fabric item?

There are significant differences and a number of health and environmental benefits to choosing bamboo products over cotton.

## Health Benefits

Bamboo fabric is very soft, often described as feeling like cashmere. This is because the bamboo fiber itself is naturally round and smooth without any chemical treatments. We are still discovering the beneficial properties of Bamboo, here are just a few:

- ✓ **Thermo-regulating:** Which means when in fabric form, it will keep you warmer in winter and cooler in summer.
- ✓ **Low Irritant:** Found to be one of the gentlest fabric for sensitive skin.
- ✓ **Low Allergy:** Naturally hypoallergenic, resistant to dust mites and other allergens. Bamboo naturally wicks away warm moisture, the breeding ground for molds and dust mites. Most people spend at least 8 hours tucked up in bed, so if an allergy sufferer can get some relief from waking up without sniffles, itching eyes and congestion by simply changing their bedding, they will start their day feeling rested and invigorated.
- ✓ **Anti - Antibacterial:** Bamboos unique antibacterial quality is due to an antimicrobial bio-agent called "bamboo kun" which is found naturally in the fiber. This kun makes bamboo a naturally antibacterial, antifungal and odour resistant fiber, through multiple washings. Cotton does not have anything like this. The bamboo kun helps to reduce bacteria that thrive on clothing and human skin. This means that the wearer and the fabric have less bacteria that causes unpleasant odours.

Anti-bacterial Testing conducted by CTITC (China Textile Industry Testing Centre)

Anti- bacteria test FZ/T 01021-92 conducted July 2003.

#### Testing Fabric > Bacteria Introduced > 24 hrs later bacteria Count > Performance

Bamboo fabric: 8.6 X 10,000 (= 86,000)

0.2 X 100 (= 20) = 99.8% elimination

Cotton fabric: 2 X 100,000 (= 200,000)

X 100,000,000 (= 110,000,000) = 55,000% INCREASE



Similar scientific tests have been performed by various international textile testing laboratories. These can easily be accessed in numerous websites. In bamboo fabric, bacteria numbers were reduced to less than 0.2%.

Whereas in cotton fabric, bacteria number increased to 550 times the original. (# tests not undertaken by Koala Bamboo)

## Environmental Benefits

- ✓ **Minimum Water:** Bamboo requires half the water required to grow a cotton tree. Cotton tree crops are one of the highest users of water of all crops, requiring up to 20 thousand litres of water to produce 1Kilogram of Cotton.
- ✓ **Harmful CO<sup>2</sup>:** One hectare of Bamboo sequesters 62 Tonnes of CO<sup>2</sup> per year compared to cotton at 15 tonnes.
- ✓ **Soil Erosion:** Bamboo roots remain within the ground when harvested, unlike cotton and other crops where soil erosion is caused due to annual removal of entire plant including roots for replanting. Leaving roots in the soil assist with preventing the destruction of soils and assist with preventing **Dryland salinity** which is caused by rising water tables precipitated by clearing deep rooted perennial native vegetation and replacing it with shallow rooted annual plants.
- ✓ **Sustainable Farming:** It only takes 12 months for a cut bamboo stem to regrow ready for re-harvesting. Organic cotton farming requires the destruction of the entire crop, leaving soils barren and exposed to direct sun until a full crop has regrown. Tilling of the soil to replant cotton crops releases additional CO<sup>2</sup> into the atmosphere.
  - The felling of bamboo leads to vigorous regrowth and an increase in each following year.
  - It is the fastest growing woody plant in the world and can grow up to 93cm per day; new cane will reach its full height in just eight to ten weeks.
  - Bamboo is not climate specific and can be farmed in regained/ reassigned cleared farmed lands rather than clearing additional native bush land to accommodate increased production demands.
- ✓ **Higher Yields Per Hectare:** Bamboo can yield 60 tonnes compared to cotton which yields only up to 2 tonnes per hectare. This assists in minimising of additional land clearing.
- ✓ **No Pesticides & Fertilisers:** Bamboo requires 0% pesticides and fertilisers to yield a crop, unlike cotton which accounts for 24% of insecticide & 11% of pesticides in the worlds market. It is reported that approximately 20 thousands deaths and 1 million people are hospitalised each year for farmer workers for toxic exposure.
- ✓ **100% Biodegradable:** Bamboo is a natural product and is 100% bio degradable in soils by expose to sunlight and microorganisms.

