

Palm oil



We expect all our suppliers to adhere to our [Ethical Trade Requirements](#). Over and above this we have a number of commitments which we are working collaboratively with our suppliers to achieve. This statement outlines our commitment concerning palm oil.

Target

By 2025 all palm oil and palm-based ingredients (derivatives) used across our business and in the products we sell will be certified to the 'Identity Preserved' or 'Segregated' standards set by the [Roundtable on Responsible Palm Oil](#) (RSPO)*.

Deadline

2025

What is palm oil?

Palm fruit and palm kernel oil are the most widely used vegetable oils in the world.

Palm oil and derivatives are estimated to be included in over [50%](#) of all consumer goods, from ice cream to lipstick and global consumption is expected to [double by 2050](#).

What's the problem with palm oil?

Tropical forests primarily in South-East Asia have been and continue to be cleared to make way for palm plantations. These forests are some of the richest in biodiversity on the planet, providing habitat for countless species.

Rainforest often grows on carbon-rich peat soils, which are routinely drained and burned ready for palm to be planted; this process releases huge quantities of carbon into the atmosphere, contributing significantly to climate change.

The impacts of palm oil production have been well documented, and a number of initiatives and certifications have emerged to address the sustainability of the industry, the most notable being the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), which certifies around [19%](#) of global production. However, Greenpeace, [Imperial College London](#) and a number of other NGOs and academics have highlighted that palm oil certification does not always guarantee deforestation-free supply chains.

What is Selfridges' position on palm oil?

In 2019 we came to the decision that until certified sustainable palm oil guaranteed zero deforestation, our customers should be given the option to buy palm oil free products. Therefore products specified under Selfridges' brand name were reformulated to be palm oil free. Since we took that decision an extensive review of RSPO standards has been undertaken and improvements made and we recognise that many of our brand partners have committed time and investment to achieving greater transparency and sustainability through palm oil certification and we respect this approach.

In the lead-up to our target deadline of 2025 when the following criteria will become mandatory, we encourage our partners and suppliers to:

- Make a time-bound public commitment to ensure zero deforestation in the supply chain following globally recognised assurance and reporting frameworks.
- Source certified palm oil to 'Identity Preserved' or 'Segregated' standards set by [the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil](#) (RSPO).
- Collaborate with innovative companies and suppliers to encourage the development of sustainable alternatives to palm oil.

*In exceptional circumstances we will consider palm oil certified to the 'Mass Balance' or 'Book & Claim' standards set by the Roundtable on Responsible Palm Oil (RSPO).