

Forest -derived fibres



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 forest-derived (man-made cellulose) fibres.

Target

By 2025, all forest-derived fibres (man-made cellulose) used across our business and in the products we sell will come from certified recycled sources or from certified responsibly managed forests. Brands must have a time bound public commitment not to source from ancient or endangered forests¹ and must demonstrate steps taken to reduce the social and environmental impacts associated with sourcing and production of forest fibres.

Deadline

2025

What are forest-derived fibres?

According to the Canadian NGO [Canopy](#), more than 150 million trees a year are logged to harvest cellulose for conversion into forest fibres, most commonly known as viscose, rayon, modal or lyocell. The chances are that almost everyone has garments in their wardrobe that started life as a tree.

What's the problem with using forest-derived fibres?

Illegal logging for timber, pulp and cellulose continues to be a major driver of global deforestation; one of the most significant factors in both biodiversity loss and climate change. The market for forest fibres is expected to grow significantly over the next 10 years, due to a rising demand for biodegradable materials and concerns over microplastic pollution from synthetics. It is essential that ancient and endangered forest ecosystems are protected and preserved, while sustainable forest management and rigorous certification is demanded within supply chains.

What is Selfridges' position on forest-derived fibres?

We will work with our partners and suppliers to promote conservation of the world's ancient and endangered forests. We are committed to the responsible purchasing of all products that contain raw materials sourced from forests or known to be a significant driver of deforestation.

We will lead by example, from 2021 any wood/paper purchased as not for resale will be certified under the [Forest Stewardship Council](#)® (FSC®) or from recycled content.

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

- Have a publicly available responsible sourcing policy which includes this forest-derived fibres and includes a commitment to ensure zero deforestation in the supply chain, following globally recognised assurance and reporting framework.
- Put in place with [Canopy](#) a robust time-bound public commitment to avoid sourcing forest fibres derived from ancient and endangered forests¹.
- Replace virgin fibres with recycled content.
- Source forest fibres derived from sustainably managed forests certified under the [Forest Stewardship Council](#)® (FSC®) system, including any plantation fibre.
- Where the forest fibres are not certified to FSC®, brand/supplier must demonstrate steps taken through an alternative recognised scheme to reduce the social and environmental impacts associated with sourcing and production of forest fibres.

These criteria are within the [CanopyStyle](#) policy requirements. In support of CanopyStyle we encourage our partners, including the brands we sell, and suppliers to additionally:

- Implement existing commitments to avoid sourcing from ancient and endangered forests, illegal logging and endangered species habitat by 2020 or if developing a brand new policy to align with the CanopyStyle initiative on implementation timelines of 2022.
- Collaborate with Canopy, as well as innovative companies and suppliers to encourage conservation solutions as well as the development of fibre sources that reduce environmental and social impacts, with a focus on agricultural residues and recycled fabrics.
- Preference for product lines made from innovative and/or recycled fibres and develop a 2025 procurement target for these closed-loop solutions.*
- Recognise, respect and uphold human rights and the rights of communities and acknowledge indigenous and rural communities' legal, customary or user rights to their territories, land, and resources.
- Such [innovative](#) fabrics may be considered within Selfridges 2025 target criteria.

¹Ancient and endangered forests are defined as intact forest landscape mosaics, naturally rare forest types, forest types that have been made rare due to human activity, and/or other forests that are ecologically critical for the protection of biological diversity. Ecological components of endangered forests are: Intact forest landscapes; Remnant forests and restoration cores; Landscape connectivity; Rare forest types; Forests of high species richness; Forests containing high concentrations of rare and endangered species; Forests of high endemism; Core habitat for focal species; Forests exhibiting rare ecological and evolutionary phenomena. As a starting point to geographically locate ancient and endangered forests, maps of High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF), as defined by the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) and of intact forest landscapes (IFL), can be used and paired with maps of other key ecological values like the habitat range of key endangered species and forests containing high concentrations of terrestrial carbon and High Carbon Stocks (HCS). (The Wye River Coalition's Endangered Forests: High Conservation Value Forests Protection – Guidance for Corporate Commitments. This has been reviewed by conservation groups, corporations and scientists). Key endangered forests globally are the Canadian and Russian Boreal Forests; Coastal Temperate Rainforests of British Columbia, Alaska and Chile; Tropical forests and peat lands of Indonesia, the Amazon and West Africa.