



northrup king building • studio 436 • 1500 jackson street ne • minneapolis, mn 55413 • 612-414-7771 • www.hkhpaintings.com

What is 100% Recycled Soda Bottle Fabric?

“Up-cycling is the practice of recycling waste materials for use in higher-value products, such as turning soda bottles (which are refined, purified and chopped down) into fiber which is then woven into fabric.”

The fabric I print my patterns onto for my wall pieces, books/journals, folios, and tote bags is called Ecophab™. It is made from EcoSpun material, the fabric woven from fiber made from plastic soda bottles (the process is described below). The textile printer I work with in Minnesota has been a strong advocate of Ecophab™.

Ecophab™ is made from 100% post-consumer soda pop bottles:

1. Plastic polyethylene terephthalate (PET) containers (in this case, soda pop bottles) are picked up at curbside and community recycling centers.
2. They are sorted by type and color then cleaned, crushed, refined, purified, and chopped into flake.
3. These tiny pieces are then melted, liquefied, and extruded from spinnerets creating fiber strands.
4. The strands are woven or knit into fabric by 2 mills here in the USA.

The print process is water based and doesn't create toxic waste. The textile company I work with is even able to recycle the paper used in the image transferring process.

Other Facts

In my searches I also found the words “100% recycled soda bottles” interchangeable with “recycled polyester”:

- “...Made from 100% recycled soda, water, and food containers that are turned into a soft, durable polyester fiber that is completely washable and reusable...”
- “...100% post-consumer waste polyester fiber – mostly old soda bottles...”
- “Patagonia was the first outdoor clothing company to offer products made of recycled polyester. They recycle old soda bottles to create their Capilene® and select fleece apparel.”

http://www.rewarestore.com/tech_recycled_pet.html

- “...interest in recycling plastics led to the development of a recycled polyester fiber...”
- “...One manufacturer estimates that for every meter of polyester fabric made of 80% recycled PET, eight plastic beverage bottles are kept out of landfills.”
- “...recycling PET into polyester is also alleged to be less damaging to the environment even than growing organic cotton, because cotton leaches nutrients from soil and requires so much open space to grow.”