

Ingredients

- The **FSC Certified wood** is solid poplar from California. Poplar is a plentiful hardwood that is non-aromatic, and doesn't have much of an odor and doesn't develop one over time. Our Poplar is untreated.
 - FSC is an abbreviation for The Forest Stewardship Council, which was formed in 1992 after the Earth Summit in Rio. The Forest Stewardship Council was created to change the dialogue about and the practice of sustainable forestry worldwide. FSC sets forth principles, criteria, and standards that span economic, social, and environmental concerns. The FSC standards represent the world's strongest system for guiding forest management toward sustainable outcomes. Wood that is FSC certified is sourced from a supplier who adheres to the strict principles and practices of forest management.
- The cushion cores are **natural rubber**. Natural rubber is a renewable resource. It is the milk or sap tapped from the Hevea Brasiliensis – the common rubber tree, grown on Malaysian, Sri Lankan and Indian plantations, especially selected for their high quality product. We use rubber from Sri Lanka and have independent lab test results regarding purity of ingredients and the non-toxicity of them.
- The **eco wool** is from California and is of the highest quality and cleanest wool available. It is naturally almost white in color. The sheep are raised in an open mountainous setting. The carding mill is in the process of obtaining Oeko-Tex certification.
- The **certified organic cotton** is certified by The Texas Department of Agriculture and is grown in the state of Texas by the Texas organic Cotton marketing Cooperative (TOCMC).
 - Why organic? No pesticides. No herbicides. No fertilizers. No defoliants.
 - Why Texas organic cotton? We are committed to using as local resources to reduce our carbon footprint and to support domestic businesses.
- Our **low VOC stains** are from the U.S. We use AFM Safecoat as our primary brand, but we are also open to using Bioshield. Our darkest stain is Osmo, because the other two brands offer no ebony colored stain. Osmo is a German brand. Our wood stains are formaldehyde free.
- Our glues are **non-toxic water-based glues**.
- The certified organic cotton barriercloth fabric is woven in the United States from Texas certified organic cotton.
- All of the cover fabrics are made from natural fibers that are **Oeko-Tex certified** as organic (cottons), naturally organic (hemp), Oeko-Tex certified (wools) or rapidly renewable fibers (bamboos and hemp). Our certified organic cotton fabrics are woven in the U.S. Our hems are woven in Romania and China since the U.S. has regulations that restrict hemp processing. Our certified wools are from South America and some of the hemp/bamboo blends are woven in China.
 - Oeko-Tex is an independent test institute whose criteria catalog provides for the very first time a uniform, scientifically founded evaluation standard for the human ecological safety of textiles, against the background of the globalized and extremely fragmented nature of the textile manufacturing chain. It provides a reliable product label for consumers to assess the human ecological quality of textiles, and a uniform safety standard for companies within the textile and clothing industry.
 - Hems are by nature organic and don't require certification because it is grown naturally without the use of pesticides and herbicides. One might acquire independent certification as a marketing tool, but, certified or not, it is all free of toxins.

As a completely natural, hypo-allergenic and pesticide-free alternative to down, we will substitute **kapok fiber** in throw pillows upon request. We will also use kapok as a wrap over the natural rubber cushion cores to create the down feeling, upon request. Unlike wool, which is flame retardant, kapok is flammable. We require a doctor's note when using kapok in cushions, which allows us to legally make upholstered seating that doesn't meet State of California flame retardancy requirements.

- Kapok fiber comes from the seed capsule from the kapok tree, primarily growing in Java, Philippines and Malaysia. It is mold, mildew and dust mite proof, highly resilient, non-aromatic, buoyant, light and is grown without the use of herbicides and pesticides.



Features and Benefits of the Non-Toxic Natural Ingredients.

Why natural rubber?

It is an extremely durable elastic material characterized by its ability to retain its shape and original firmness. Because the product is manufactured where the sap is harvested, we are helping to sustain the local economy and provide jobs without depleting the natural resources of the country of origin. Natural rubber is mold, mildew and dust mite resistant. Rubber producing plants grow best within 10 degrees of the Equator, where the climate is hot and moist, and the soil is deep and rich. For this reason, the area of about 700 miles on each side of the Equator is known as the "Rubber Belt."

Natural rubber, for example, does not depress, form body impressions, or rut over time, because of its highly elastic quality, its open celled structure, and its stability. Urethane or oil based foams eventually turn yellow, become brittle, and begin to bucket or rut, even very early on.

Natural rubber, made using the Dunlop method, is rinse processed after the vulcanization process is complete. (Vulcanization is the "slow cooking" process which turns the raw liquid rubber into a solid) utilizes pure, drinkable quality water, which removes proteins and other dusty residuals which eliminate allergens. Therefore, people who have latex allergies can safely enjoy the comfort of a natural rubber. Latex allergies also develop from direct contact to skin over long periods of time.

What is Dunlop versus Natural Talalay ?

There's a lot of confusion about what Dunlop and Talalay mean. They are neither types of rubber nor types of rubber trees, but types of processing. Dunlop is a process that's been around since 1929 and involves the traditional manufacturing method. Talalay is the name of a newer process. Here's how they differ.

Dunlop

When Dunlop rubber is made, the serum is frothed in a centrifuge, poured into a mold, covered and baked at a low temperature. The natural sediments in the rubber settle to the bottom of the mold, which yields a layer that is slightly firmer on the bottom side.

Talayay

In the Talalay process, after the rubber is poured, the mold is sealed and air is vacuumed out. Then the mold is flash-

frozen to stabilize the material. This produces a more consistent cell structure, as some of the weaker air bubbles are vacuumed out. Due to the added steps, Talalay rubber is more expensive than Dunlop, yet in independent testing, it has been shown that talalay rubber, in some cases can contain chemical binders unsafe for human health.

Which is better?

Having worked with both Dunlop and Talalay rubber, we can say with confidence that neither is superior to the other. What matters more is how it is handled out of the mold, how it is packaged, shipped, and ultimately, what is in the end product.

What other variables are there? Some companies add “fillers” such as clay to make the rubber go further. Ammonia is often added in the Talalay process. Companies selling Natural Talalay say it’s superior and more pure than Natural Dunlop, and vice versa. Both materials make a great mattress or cushion core and are extremely pure relative to most commercial mattresses and furniture cushions. More marketing money has gone into the promotion of the Talalay method since its one producer, Latex International, is here in the U.S.

The key is to continually obtain independent lab test results showing the purity of the product and its VOC emissions. If a company cannot provide you with that then caution is on order.

While it is true that Talalay has a wider range of ILDs, or firmness grades, in our experience Dunlop is heavier and more durable. Another downside to the Talalay is that the CO2 used in Talalay processing is very harmful to the environment as it off-gasses.

Natural or synthetic blend?

In the Talalay process, synthetic chemicals are usually added to make Talalay rubber, but not always. It is possible to make natural Talalay, synthetic Talalay, natural Dunlop, and synthetic Dunlop. Unfortunately, there is no law that prohibits manufacturers from saying their products contain “natural” latex or rubber—even if in actuality that’s only the 20% in an 80%-20% blend, for example.

We use only natural Dunlop rubber. We are comfortable with this for two reasons. First, this process has not changed since 1929, and the harmful chemicals available today were not available then. Second, since our natural rubber is from an area in the rubber belt, close to the equator, we know that is of the highest quality available,

What are the Benefits of Wool?

- Wool harmonizes with the body’s temperature changes ~ warms you without overheating and keeps you cool and comfortable in the heat of the summer
- Wool is fast drying and completely mildew resistant ~ keeps you dry and comfortable, not clammy
- Wool is mold and dust mite resistant
- Wool is naturally resilient, providing relief to pressure points
- Wool is naturally flame resistant ~ safe for the family
- Wool is ecologically and domestically grown
- Wool helps to reduce the heart rate while you sleep
- Wool batting is superior to most other fibers for individuals with allergies and sensitivities
- Wool helps to relieve everyday back pains and arthritic symptoms
- Wool is biodegradable (unlike synthetic fibers)
- Wool is the greatest insulator ~ it has been used for thousands of years in the walls of homes, as clothing, as rugs and as bedding.

What are the benefits of organic cotton?

- No synthetic pesticides
- No synthetic herbicides
- No preservatives or additives
- No Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO's or GE)
- No Irradiation
- Better for the environment and its workers

Commonly Asked Questions

Why don't you use recycled polyester batting and fabrics?

Quite simply, our primary goal is to produce furniture that is more healthful for humans and the environment. Polyester is a petroleum-based fiber. Petroleum off-gasses and is scarce natural resource.

Does your furniture have flame retardants?

We use no chemical flame retardants. We use wool, which is naturally flame retardant to meet all federal and state requirements for flame retardancy of residential furniture.

Why are some of your ingredients sourced outside the U.S.?

Whenever it is possible to source an ingredient domestically, we will choose that option. Unfortunately, some raw materials simply aren't produced in the States. This is the situation with the natural rubber, hemp and kapok. We are continually experimenting with raw materials to determine the feasibility of using them based on performance, health and carbon footprint reduction. However, we cannot compromise on quality for an investment product such as our pieces are.

If I am allergic to wool, can you substitute it with organic cotton batting?

Yes we can if you supply a doctor's prescription showing that no wool can be used for medical reasons. We need this because we are then producing a piece that does not comply with federal and state flame retardancy standards for residential upholstered furniture. This absolves us from liability.

Does the upholstered furniture come with any warranties?

The pieces come with a 25 year frame warranty and 10 year cushion filler warranty.

Do all of the fabrics meet durability standards for frequent use?

Yes, all of the fabrics that we use in our collections are tested for overall durability and rate as heavy duty for residential usage. Some rate as heavy duty for Contract usage as well (all wools and some cottons and hems)

How are the fabrics cleaned?

Obviously, dry cleaning the fabrics or cushion covers using conventional solvents defeats the purpose of using non-toxic, untreated fabrics. Conventional steam cleaning of cushions is the best method. Spot cleaning specific areas with baking soda and water is highly effective.

Is this furniture able to be returned?

All pieces are custom hand made pieces that are commissioned for the individual client. We assume all responsibility for any pieces that are damaged in transit or defective for some reason and will repair or replace such pieces. Unfortunately, we do not accept returns of pieces if they have no inherent problems and just do not look right in a room. We always work with clients to satisfy them in terms of comfort.

What is the lead time to produce the furniture?

Four weeks is the standard lead time. If it is shortened or lengthened, we will notify you. It will also be on the order confirmation. We are working to shorten the length of the lead time.

What happens if I am allergic to any ingredient?

We always recommend for people who have multiple sensitivities that they request and test each individual ingredient prior to placing an order, which we will gladly supply.

Can I customize the pieces?

Aside from fabric and stain finish choice, other customizations are sometimes available. Give us your request and we will assess the feasibility and cost of it and determine the upcharge, if any, for doing so.

