

Project: Rohner Textil AG

Subject: Climatex Lifecycle

Climatex Lifecycle: The First Biodegradable and Compostable Fabric

Climatex Lifecycle upholstery fabric is composed of materials that are positively-defined as biological nutrients. Climatex Lifecycle fabric was developed by EPEA, MBDC, and Rohner Textil AG. It is the first biodegradable and compostable fabric.

Every material input for the upholstery fabric was analyzed and defined using EPEA's detailed chemical assessment for human and environmental health. Performing this detailed analysis requires extensive data from all suppliers involved in the product. Chemical dye-manufacturer Ciba, fiber manufacturer Lenzing, and chemical producer Clariant shared their chemical data with EPEA to achieve this goal. Out of 1600 chemical dye formulations, EPEA's methodology identified 16 that fulfilled the technical and environmental requirements for the fabric.

Climatex Lifecycle can be conducted into biological cycles as a biological nutrient. Currently, the trimmings from the manufacturing process are used in local gardens as mulch. Rohner was able to dramatically reduce the costs of waste management and waste disposal with this new fabric. Workers no longer had to handle toxic chemicals, and Rohner converted the storage room for toxic chemicals into staff offices and a lounge.

The fabric is made from natural fibers that include sustainably grown ramie (a tall fibrous plant grown in Asia) and wool from free-range, humanely sheared sheep.

Climatex Lifecycle has won several awards including two prestigious iF Design Awards in 1999 and 2001. It has been exhibited in the Museum of Modern Art in New York (2002), and in Solomon Guggenheim Museum (New York, 2002).

Rohner Textil AG

<http://www.climatex.com>

MBDC

<http://www.mbdc.com>

EPEA Internationale Umweltforschung GmbH

<http://www.epea.com>