

Cotton fiber paper

The first paper was made in China during the early 2nd century from scrap materials containing cotton, such as discarded rags and used fishing nets. At this time, paper was not commonly used for writing. Rather, the durability of cotton fiber made paper an optimal choice for wrapping and padding delicate trinkets and medicines. It wasn't until the 3rd century that paper became more prominently used for writing.

Although hemp and linen fiber were favored when paper mills started to appear in Europe, cotton quickly became a preferred fiber source. This continued until the 19th century, when demand for paper, created by the invention of the steam-driven printing press, outstripped the available supply of cotton rags. Mills turned to wood fiber to meet the demand and it soon became the standard. Cotton fiber papers became a high-quality luxury.

Cotton Fiber Paper

The source of fiber used in the production of Mohawk's cotton papers is a by-product of cotton refining known as linters. Linters are smooth, shiny fibers that remain attached to cottonseed after ginning. For textile producers, linters are a waste product of their manufacturing process. Because linters are collected and shipped to Mohawk in 1,000 lb. bails, the original source of the cotton is unknown.

The Environmental Benefits of Cotton

Cotton fiber can be considered an environmental choice because it is a recovered material from cotton refining, and it reduces the need for virgin fiber thereby taking pressure off of forest resources. Cotton also has less lignin than wood fiber. Lignin is an impure component of the fibers that must be chemically removed prior to papermaking. Therefore it takes less energy and chemicals to process cotton fiber.

Cotton fibers are classified by the EPA as a rapidly renewable fiber. This means that cotton fibers are produced from plants that are harvested within a ten-year, or shorter, cycle. In addition, 100% of the emissions from the electricity used to manufacture Mohawk's cotton papers is offset with certified windpower certificates.

Use of Cotton Paper

Because of its archival quality, cotton paper is commonly used for corporate identity programs, legal documents, and college theses. As a mark of quality, cotton paper typically contains a watermark, an unalterable part of the paper that is created when a dandy roll presses the watermark design into the wet sheet during the papermaking process. A watermark in cotton paper will often indicate the amount of cotton in a sheet, whether it be 25% cotton or 100% pure cotton.

BENEFITS OF COTTON FIBER

Adds strength and durability
Reduces the deterioration of paper over time
Is naturally bright
Feels more crisp
Archival quality
Creates a luxury presentation

COTTON PAPERS ARE IDEAL FOR

Offset printing
Embossing
Foil stamping
Engraving
Letterpress printing
Perfing, scoring and folding

MOHAWK'S COTTON FIBER PAPERS

Strathmore Writing 25% Cotton
Strathmore Pure
Cotton Writing
Mohawk Via 25% Cotton

These cotton papers have matching text and cover papers made with sulphite, or pure wood cellulose, fiber