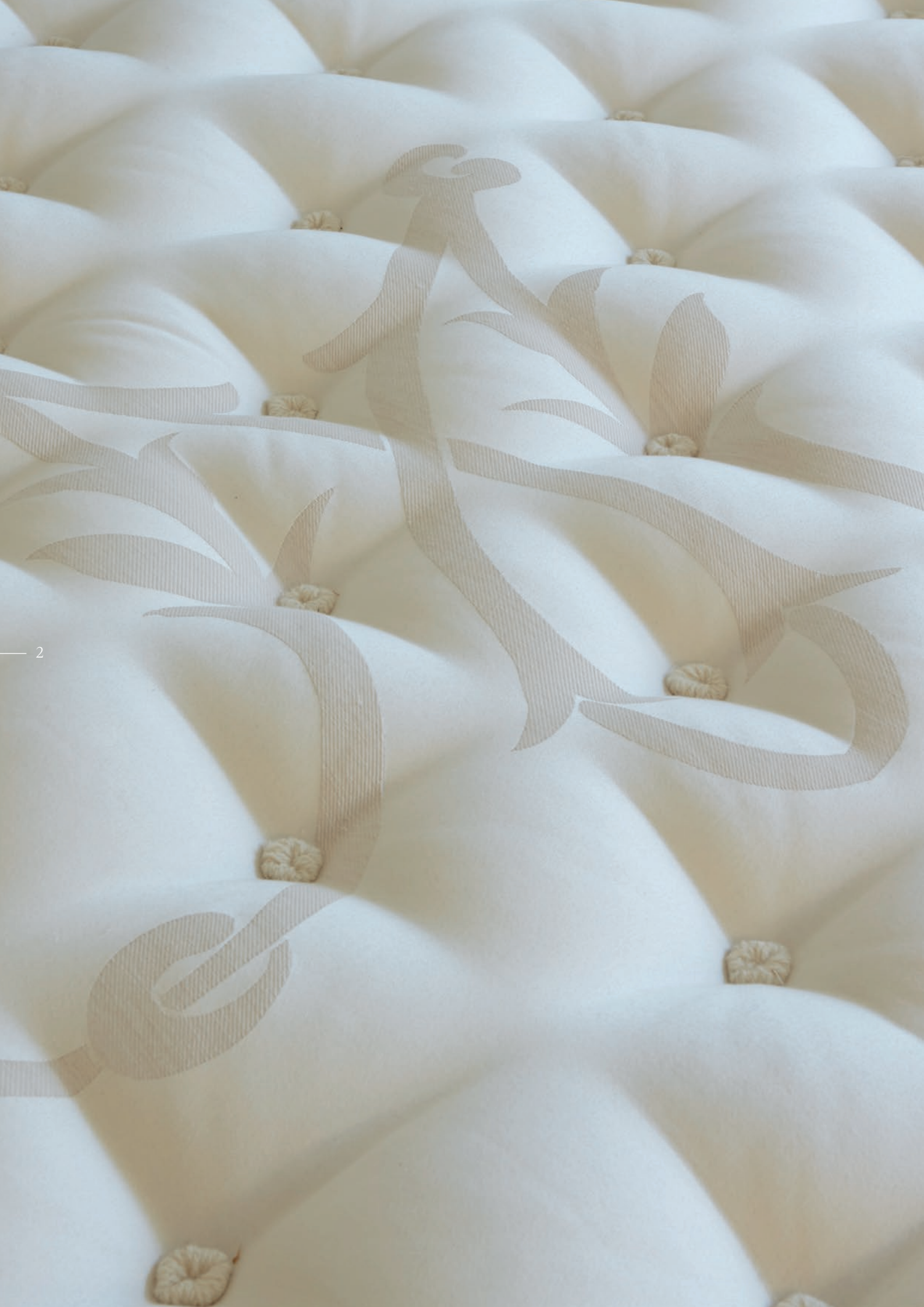
INFINITE

Sustainability at Maes Mattress Ticking

MAES
MATTRESS TICKING

At Maes Mattress Ticking we believe the future of our business is sustainable. Infinite is our programme to get there.



1. Infinite makes us united

As a family company, we want to contribute to a better life for all our stakeholders.

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2. Infinite reduces our operational impact

We have a plan to reduce the impact of our operations on the climate, on water and on waste.

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3. Infinite guides us to a circular future

We believe our products should create the least waste possible. Using as many natural products as we can is an important first step towards a circular future.

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1. Infinite makes us united

At Maes Mattress Ticking we operate on the basis of family values. We aspire to be a company where all stakeholders share in our success.

Employees

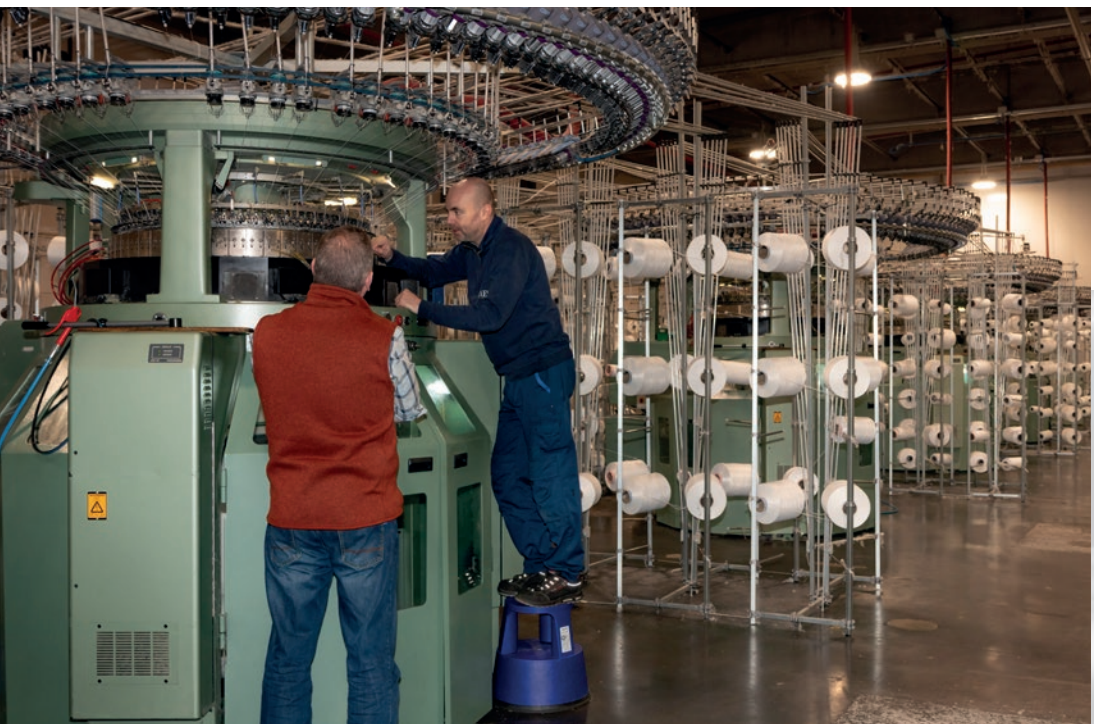
We invest in our employees because staff tenure and longevity improves quality and consistency. The average tenure of our personnel is over 17 years.

In the workplace, we ensure equality and provide everyone with a decent education and a friendly work environment. We take the wellbeing of our employees very seriously.

Suppliers

We would not be able to operate without our suppliers. We believe it is important that everyone across the supply chain is able to operate under good working conditions.

Through the Better Cotton Initiative, for example, we help farmers grow cotton in a way that reduces stress on the local environment and improves the livelihoods and welfare of farming communities. Better farming practices lead to reduced use of pesticides, fertilisers and water. They also create healthier soil that helps conserve natural habitats.



Customers

At Maes Mattress Ticking we attach great importance to our customers. To ensure the safety and quality of our products, we have certified our products with the Oeko-Tex®, REACH and Nordic Swan labels.

Oeko-Tex® Standard 100 Class 1

Oeko-Tex® Standard 100 is one of the world's best-known labels for textiles tested for harmful substances. It stands for customer confidence and high product safety. We are awarded an annual certificate because our products meet the human-ecological requirements of Oeko-Tex® Standard 100 Class I.

REACH

REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) compliance deals with the regulations that were created to improve the environment and to protect human health. REACH addresses the risks associated with chemicals and promotes alternative methods for the hazard assessment of substances. By being REACH-compliant, we ensure a high level of protection from the use of chemicals, both for human health and the environment.

Nordic Swan Ecolabel

Nordic Ecolabelling works to reduce the environmental impact from production and consumption of goods. The Nordic Swan Ecolabel:

- Sets strict environmental requirements in all relevant phases of our products' life cycles.
- Imposes strict requirements for chemicals used in our Ecolabelled products.
- Continuously tightens requirements for our goods and services to create sustainable development.
- Certifies and verifies that all requirements are met before our products are approved.

2. Infinite reduces our operational impact

We aim to continuously reduce the environmental impact of our operations. Both in the office and throughout our production chain, we are focused on sustainability.

At the end of 2023 we will map and report our carbon footprint (scopes 1 & 2) according to the IPCC standards. We will use this information to strive for climate-neutral operations.

A. Plant operations

Water

In terms of water, we have reduced the chemical oxygen demand (COD) by 90% and removed 85% of nitrogen by optimising our water treatment plant, where we pride ourselves in only using biodegradable products.

We treat water from the Bossuit-Kortrijk canal before using it in our production process, and purify the water we have used before releasing it back into nature.

The water treatment process is 100% biological, and the remaining biomass is used as a fertiliser for agriculture.

Logistics

We strategically host our production in Belgium, internationally renowned for its creative, high-quality and thriving textiles industry. The majority of our suppliers are based in Europe, decreasing the need for long transport routes and dramatically lowering the carbon footprint of our incoming shipments.

When buying non-European yarn, we strive to use an alternative, more sustainable shipment route. This results in 85% less transport on the job and 52% lower CO2 emissions.

Reducing waste through recycling

Our plant is located in Flanders, a region with some of the strictest regulations (Vlarem) around textile waste and environmental permits in Europe. We are proud to work in accordance with these regulations.

At Maes Mattress Ticking, none of our waste is incinerated. Cardboard, plastic and textiles are all 100% recycled, so they can be used again. To reduce our impact on the environment, we ensure sustainable management of our resources by recycling our materials and waste.

- Optimisation has ensured we have minimized internal textile waste. 100% of our textile waste is recuperated and recycled, ready to be used for other products.
- All of our cardboard and plastic packaging is sent out for recycling (managed by Valipac).
- 100% of our plastic waste and 85% of our general waste is recyclable.
- 30% of the plastic we use to wrap our finished rolls of fabric is made from recycled materials.
- The cardboard tubes around which our fabrics are packaged are made from waste paper and cardboard. To facilitate recycling, the glue is water-based.

This conforms with the German Blue Angel ecolabel, which certifies it as an environmentally friendly product.

- Both our Recycled Polyester and our Recycled Cotton are Global Recycle Standard (GRS) certified.

The Global Recycle Standard (GRS) is an international product standard that sets requirements for third-party certification of recycled content, chain of custody, social and environmental practices and chemical restrictions.

Energy efficiency thanks to the best-performing machines on the market

Having the best-performing machines on the market in terms of energy use is a continuous process. We manage our machine park to be compliant with BAT, a European IPCC directive which stipulates that the best available technology on the market should be used.

We continuously optimise our machinery to increase our efficiency and decrease our energy consumption. As a result, not only do we operate faster, but we also need less energy to manufacture each product.

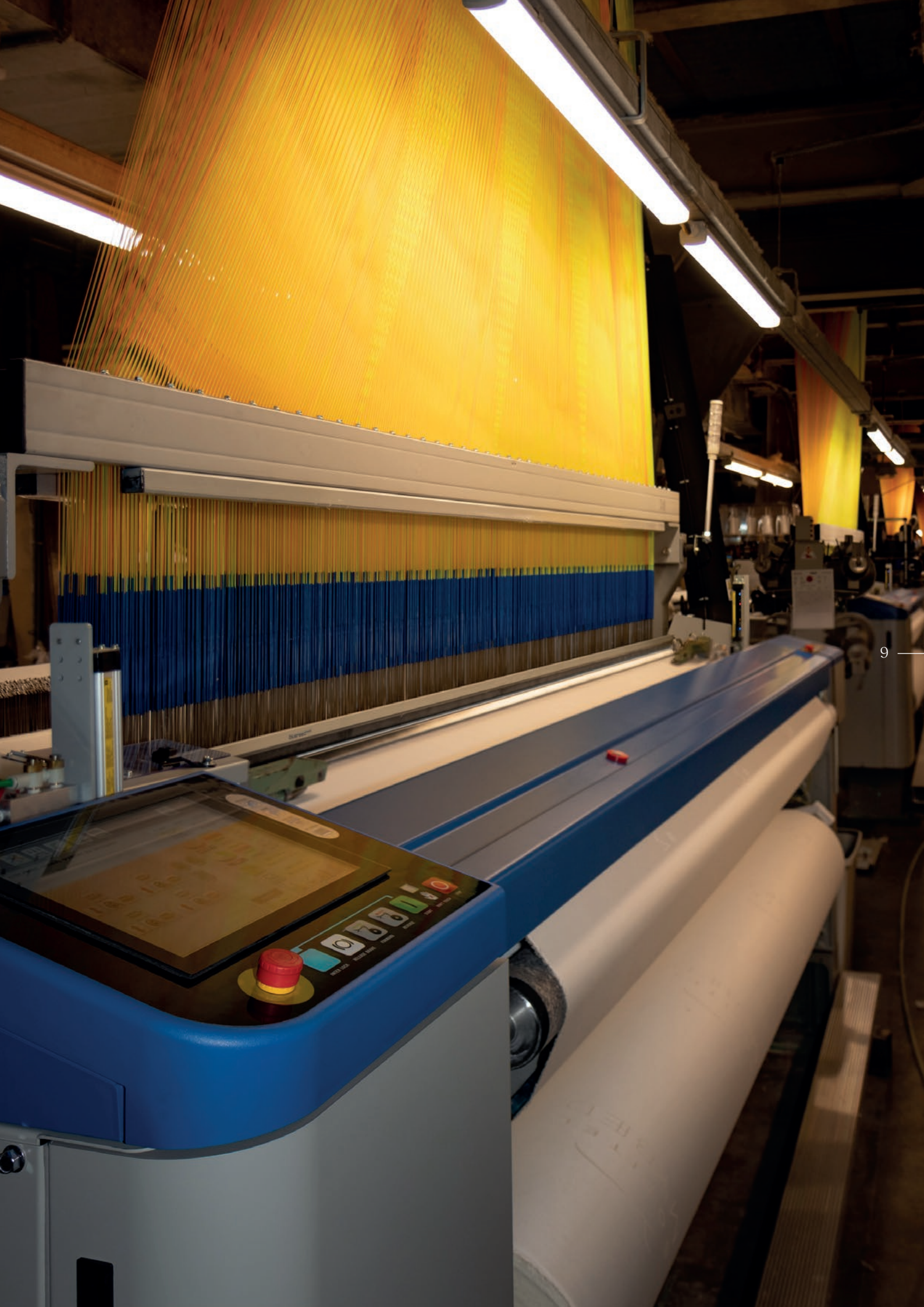
Treatment process optimisation

Beyond electricity usage, other parts of our operations contribute towards the reduction of our carbon footprint. By optimising our preparation process we have managed to decrease the use of chemicals by 35%, and 90% of our dyes are biodegradable. Additionally, we have completely eliminated the need for chemicals to make weaving beams.

B. Office operations

The little things matter to us as well. In the office, we have created a sustainable mindset by implementing small everyday changes to help our planet. For example, we only use reusable water bottles and we have switched to consuming zero-waste coffee and tea. Additionally, our showroom, production spaces, offices and parking facilities are lit with LED lighting.

We provide financial incentives to encourage our employees to commute by bike. By 2026, we will make our employee journeys more sustainable by replacing the company car fleet with electric vehicles.



3. Infinite guides us to a circular future

We want our products to remain valuable, and that is why we want to be a partner for a circular future. For us, the first step is getting to know and integrate as many natural resources as possible. Being a high-end manufacturer, we aim to explore yarns that are currently undervalued.

Investigating and developing the use of more sustainable fibres

Sustainable natural yarns

Maes Mattress Ticking chooses natural yarns above man-made yarns whenever possible. Natural yarns (e.g. viscose, cotton, Tencel, bamboo) are biodegradable and have excellent properties which are useful for mattress textiles, such as moisture-wicking properties, temperature control, antibacterial properties and breathability.

Man-made yarns need special treatments to obtain the same effect. More often than not, these treatments involve chemical ingredients, require extra energy and increase water usage. The polyester we use at MMT is a low-oil polyester: we have managed to reduce the amount of oil in the yarns from 1.5% to between 0.5% and 0.8%.

Sustainable fibres being explored

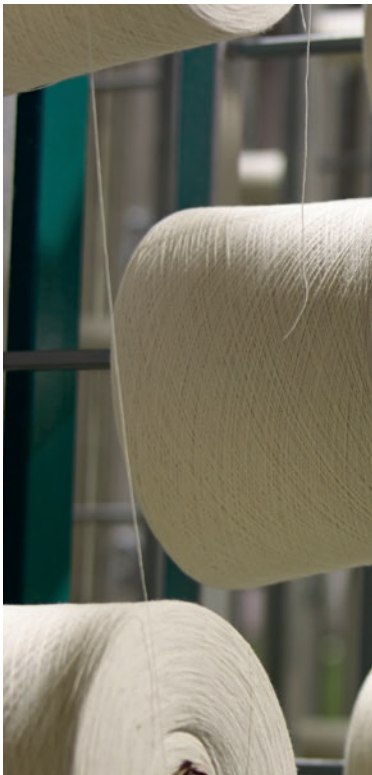
Recycled cotton

Denim

Compared to virgin cotton yarn, 8,000 litres of water is saved by recycling 1 kg of denim – the equivalent of 1 pair of jeans. Part of the finished yarn is made from mass-coloured viscose. This guarantees a stable colour and results in a strong yarn for a solid fabric.

GRS cotton

The recycled cotton we use is made in Europe and GRS-certified. GRS is intended to meet the needs of companies looking to verify the recycled content of their products and to verify responsible social, environmental and chemical practices in their production.



Tencel

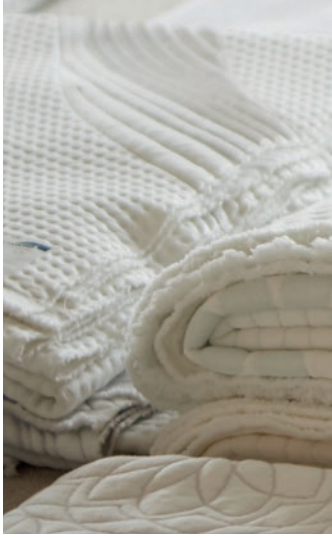
Eucalyptus grows with little water, on land that is not suitable for agriculture. The production process transforms wood pulp into cellulosic fibres with high resource efficiency. This has a low ecological impact. In addition, the manufacturing method recycles water and re-uses the solvent at a recovery rate of more than 99%, resulting in a closed-loop process.

The added value for our products is that Tencel has a really soft touch and a natural shine. Beyond its great aesthetics, Tencel also has a great number of technical qualities. It is a thermo-regulating fibre and is the number one in humidity control, since it dries faster than any other fibres. Moreover, it is a natural antibacterial and anti-fungal fibre, which makes it very hygienic.

Bamboo

Bamboo grows fast and needs very little water. It has a low ecological impact for several reasons. Bamboo returns 30% more oxygen to the air than other plants, and needs very few pesticides. The pulp is turned into cellulosic fibres with high resource efficiency and without the need for chemicals.

Bamboo yarn has a lot to offer. It is very soft, shines like silk and boasts excellent humidity control and antibacterial properties. Additionally, it has thermo-regulating fibres. Bamboo feels warm in winter and cool in summer.



Hemp

Hemp is one of the earliest domesticated plants. It grows quite fast, does not need a lot of water and requires almost no chemical pesticides. Using hemp in fabrics also causes minimal carbon emissions.

The plant is great for long-term CO2 storage. It improves the structure of the soil and is ideal for crop rotation, which improves the yield of the next culture.

Hemp fabrics are naturally resistant to mildew and mould. They are also naturally antibacterial, breathable and thermo-regulating. In addition, hemp is a very strong material.

Kapok

A kapok tree generates 300 to 1000 seedpods with kapok fibres. These can be harvested by hand, without affecting the tree. Growing up to 70 metres tall in wild and semi-wild areas, kapok trees are excellent CO2 absorbers. Kapok is 100% biodegradable and free from pesticides, fertilisers and chemicals.

Kapok fibres contain about 80% air due to their hollow structure, making them 6 times lighter than other fibres. Their numerous technical qualities are remarkable. They are hypoallergenic and antibacterial, anti-moth and anti-mite, and naturally thermo-regulating.

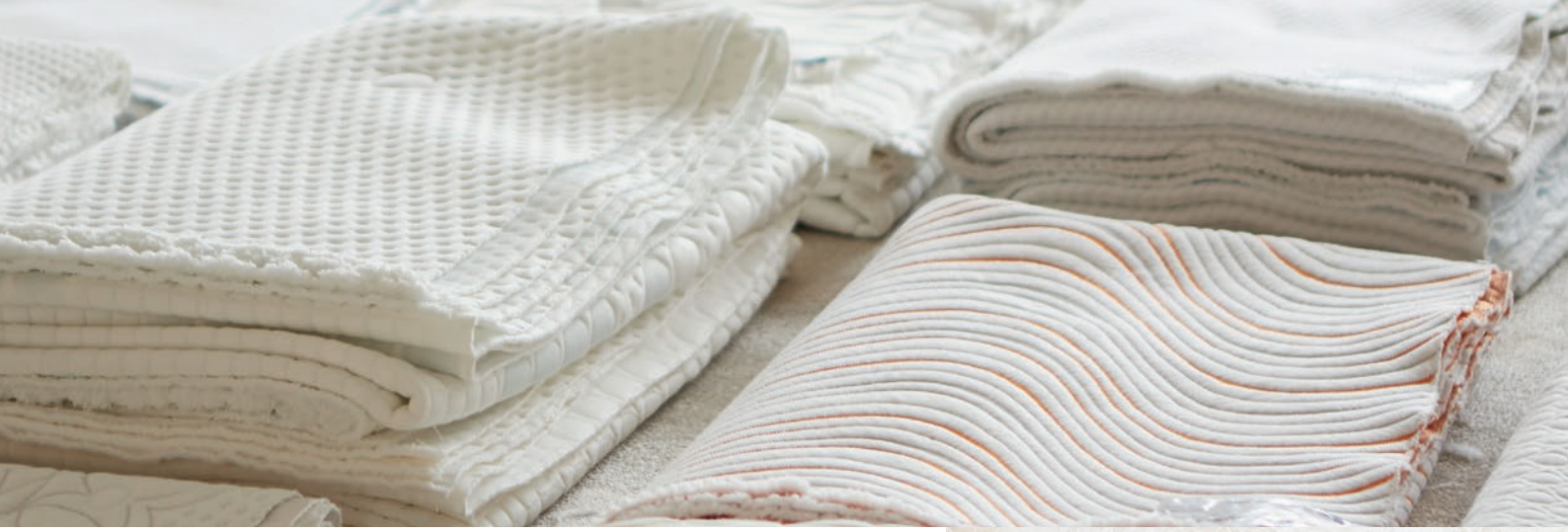
Kapok is nicknamed vegetable silk or vegetable cashmere because of its excellent breathability. It also has excellent moisture-wicking properties for a healthy sleeping environment.

SeaCell

SeaCell is eco-friendly for a number of reasons. When harvested, only the part of the seaweed that is able to regenerate is removed. SeaCell fabrics are naturally antibacterial and fit a health-conscious lifestyle because the fabric is proven to be effective at catching free radicals. The fibres are permanently preserved even after multiple washing cycles.

The patented production process (at Lenzing AG in Austria) is extraordinary: the seaweed is embedded within a natural cellulose fibre. The modal technology used in manufacturing is innovative and environmentally friendly, as it generates energy and recovers the component parts of the raw materials. The seaweed remains untreated in order to retain its ecological value. SeaCell fibres are carbon-neutral and biodegradable.

Seacell has a soft touch, silky feel and luxurious shine. It has excellent moisture-management properties, resulting in a comfortable and fresh sleeping environment.



Linen

Linen is made from flax, which is grown locally. For centuries, our region in Belgium has been known as an excellent producer of flax. The unique climate and the expertise of the local farmers result in flax crops of superior quality. Linen is an ecological crop. It needs no additional irrigation and requires barely any chemical treatment.

Linen is strong and resilient, yet very light and breezy. It has high moisture absorption, has inherent anti-allergic properties and is biodegradable and recyclable.

Viscose

Viscose is made from wood pulp, which is a renewable and biodegradable resource. It is a popular choice because of its noble, silky look and luxurious feel. It is highly absorbent and breathes easily.

Wool

Wool is a very sustainable yarn. It has a long lifespan and a natural antibacterial function. Wool fabrics are inherently fire retardant. They are highly absorbent, ventilate very well and have moisture- and temperature-regulating qualities.

Recycled polyester

Our recycled polyester is GRS-certified and only made from post-consumer goods. It is an eco-friendly yarn, and since it is made by the cradle-to-cradle principle, it involves the reuse of raw materials. However, there are no compromises on quality.

Contact

Contact us for more information on our take on sustainability and our vision for making our products and processes greener.

info@maes-usa.com

1675 Garfield Drive
PO Box 3736
Gastonia, North Carolina 28054-0020
USA

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