

# Sustainable & Eco-Friendly



## Silicone is a sustainable product

From its simple beginning as simple quartz sand that is found everywhere in the world, silicone is a product that has its origins from nature itself. Once it is processed, it becomes a more familiar material that we see everywhere: baking mats, oven gloves, baby bottle nipples, and now, silicone fabrics.

Benefits of silicone and silicone products include\*:

- Silicone products save nine times the quantity of greenhouse gases used in production and disposal by enabling energy saving technologies and a more efficient use of energy and materials
- Silicone products in automobiles reduce carbon emissions
- Since silicone is designed to last, this reduces the need to continually be replaced; thus, reducing waste and extra energy
- Silicone usage in solar, construction, and automotive industries is the leading cause for reduced GHG emissions

\*Credit of information goes to <http://www.siliconescarbonbalance.eu/>

We take a long term approach when considering our production of silicone fabric and want to do our part to be environmentally friendly. With our non-solvent production technique and with the lack of PVC or PU elements, we are much safer and healthier than traditional fabrics. Unlike PVC fabrics, we do not need to use chlorine in any of the production process, and our fabrics do not leak VOC emissions throughout its life. There's no need to clog up landfills - silicone fabric is recyclable! We have passed the most common environmental standards so you can breathe comfortably knowing that you are using a fabric that's safe for you and the environment.

We take pride that our fabrics are environmentally friendly and safe to use by anyone.

- All of our products are compliant with RoHS, REACH, California Prop 65, & CAL01350
- View our Indoor Advantage Gold certificate
- Qualifies for international and domestic environmental programs: LEED v4, Green Globes, BREEAM, BREEAM International, Living Building Challenge, CHPS, UP EPA Federal Purchasing
- Healthier Hospitals Initiative: All fabrics do not contain antimicrobials, formaldehyde, PFCs, PVC, or flame retardants
- Cortina silicone fabrics are all PVC and PU free
- Contains no plasticizers, phthalates, heavy metals (including mercury), or Bisphenol A (BPA)
- All Cortina silicone fabrics are formaldehyde free and contain no PFCs
- Advanced solvent free production, which guarantees ultra-low VOC emission

RoHS - Detection is mainly concerned with heavy metals (lead, mercury, cadmium, hexavalent chromium) and some flame retardants (polybrominated biphenyls and polybrominated diphenyl ethers).

REACH - Detection is mainly for heavy metals, dyes intermediates, perfluorinated compounds, flame retardants, pigments, anti-ultraviolet agents, chemical solvents and other toxic substances (currently 169 items).

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## Recyclable

Cortina silicone fabrics are recyclable so they are friendly to the earth! Silicone is a recyclable product and our backing cloths are made of recyclable materials.

The process for recycling silicone fabrics can be attained by separating the silicone from the cloth, and recycling the two parts individually. As our general use backing cloth is polyester, it can be easily recycled.

Although it can be more difficult to find recycling centers that accept silicone, which is mostly due to less familiarity with the material or because it's not as common as plastics or metals, there are facilities that can accept silicone. Eco USA is one facility that will accept your silicone and recycle it back its raw state so that it can be used for other purposes. Be sure to visit their website: <http://www.siliconerecycling.com/> to learn more!

Silicone is a unique material because of its sustainability qualities - it is one of the most common elements found in nature. Not only is silicone less intrusive on the environment, but the production of the silicone is less taxing on natural resources. It takes less water, raw material, and electricity to produce compared to PU and PVC.

## We believe that we should do our part to help the environment too

We are proud to develop and create a fabric that is not only beautiful, stylish, and high performance, but is also sustainable and eco-friendly. Our innovative and cutting edge techniques for designing our silicone fabrics to perform to high standards has allowed us to use environmentally friendly methods.

## Cortina Leathers has consistently led the industry in making changes to reduce the environmental footprint of our finishing facility in Ohio, and we are continuously improving.

- We use only water-based, solvent-free chemicals, which emit less than 10% of the permissible EPA VOC's + HAPs.
- We pioneered the use of chrome-free leathers in the U.S.
- Scrap leather is sent to companies to produce small leather goods, eliminating leather waste.
- We re-use the heat from our manufacturing equipment to heat the manufacturing facility, reducing our energy use.
- Our plant was retrofitted with high-efficiency lighting, reducing energy usage for lighting by 80%.
- We offer dedicated parking and chargers for electric vehicles.
- Our on-site waste-water treatment operation is state-of-the-art, consistently exceeding permit standards.
- We recycle all paper, plastics and packaging materials.