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BY AUSKIN

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Mindful Production Processes

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prioritise actions that truly make a difference in
environmental sustainability



/ Mindful Production Processes

Fibre by Auskin is driven by a strong ambition to prioritise actions that truly make a difference in environmental sustainability. When it comes to our ecological footprint, we recognise that it is in the production phase of our processes that we can minimise the impact. That's why our goal is crystal clear: to reduce our carbon footprint and create a more sustainable future.

We're actively seeking ways to achieve this goal by sourcing materials that are kinder to the planet, and minimising waste generation. We are also focused on enhancing the efficiency of our production processes by adopting Closed Loop processing in our Auto Tan machines. By focusing on these areas and constantly improving our practices, we aim to leave a lighter footprint on our precious environment.

/ Water Saving Initiatives

Water is vital in every phase of our production process, but we have made significant progress in reducing our water consumption for sheepskin processing:

- We achieved an impressive 15% annual decrease in water use over the past 5 years.
- The installation of a new water treatment plant, which surpasses regulatory requirements, demonstrates responsible water management.
- Approximately 70% of the water used is reused or recycled, contributing to a more sustainable production process.
- All treated water undergoes secondary treatment at our local facility, ensuring no direct discharge to the environment.
- By reducing water consumption, we minimise overall chemical use, promoting a healthier and more sustainable approach.
- Our efforts have resulted in a significant decrease in our environmental impact, and we continue to explore innovative water preservation methods.

/ Energy Reduction for a Greener Future

We prioritise energy consumption and continually work towards minimising our environmental impact during the production process. Here's how we're making a difference:

- We closely monitor our energy usage and distribution. This enables us to identify ways to reduce energy consumption per unit of production, striving for greater efficiency.
- We use revolutionary Auto-Tanning technology, which plays a vital role in reducing chemicals, water, and energy. Through this technology, we have reduced our COD emissions by 10%.
- Transitioning from a coal boiler to natural gas is a significant step in our sustainability journey, resulting in substantial reductions in carbon emissions, and demonstrating our commitment to a greener future.
- We actively explore environmentally-friendly energy alternatives, including solar power, to decarbonise our production processes. Abundant sunshine in our North China tannery location allows us to harness solar energy effectively - heating up to 2,000,000 litres of water per week.
- We maximise energy reuse and recycling by capturing heat from drying rooms to produce hot water. Additionally, repurposing resulting cold air for employee air conditioning ensures efficient utilisation of energy outputs.
- By embracing innovation, utilising advanced conveyors and equipment, we simplify operations and reduce our reliance on forklifts. This not only leads to energy conservation, but also contributes to a smaller carbon footprint.

/ Minimising the Chemical Impact

When it comes to treating our sheepskins at Fibre by Auskin, we prioritise preserving the inherent beauty and qualities of the raw materials, and balancing that with our environmental impact. That's why we've implemented efficient practices to minimise the use of chemicals throughout the tanning process. Here's a closer look at what we do:

- New enzyme technology is used to reduce the use of detergents and surfactants by 30%.
- Chemical recycling through our revolutionary Auto Tan technology reduces annual chemical usage by 15%.
- We achieve significantly lower wastewater outputs than required by environmental regulations, due to lower chemical needs.
- With low levels of safe chemicals, we are able to achieve the OEKO-TEX Leather Standard for the safety of our products in close contact with human skin.
- We recover and recycle salt from the curing process, resulting in a 95% reduction in salt purchased.
- We have a chrome-free production process for our core product range, and we continue to focus on eliminating chrome whenever possible, across the entire product range.
- We continuously explore ways to enhance tanning process efficiency and seek sustainable alternatives.
- We safeguard natural qualities of sheepskins, and contribute to a healthier, more sustainable production approach, by reducing chemical usage.

/ Closed Loop Processing

Closed loop processing is a method focused on maximising the efficiency of resources in our operations. Instead of discarding chemicals and water into the effluent after each process or production batch, we at Fibre have embraced a Closed Loop approach. This approach centres on the strategic reuse of essential elements.

In this system, our state-of-the-art Auto-tan machines are replenished from tanks post each production batch. Tanning chemicals are added, and the liquid from the tank is then repurposed for the subsequent production round. Closed Loop processing sharply cuts down on both chemical and water usage compared to traditional methods, where tanneries introduce skins into new vats for each batch, resulting in the drainage of residual chemicals into the effluent system.

By adopting Closed Loop processing, we contribute to a more sustainable and efficient production cycle. There's a substantial reduction in the need for cleaning vast quantities of chemical-laden water through the effluent control system. In this closed loop, the water with chemicals continuously circulates, reflecting our commitment to resource optimisation and environmental responsibility.

Solar panels on the roof of our North China tannery



/ Lightening our Footprint: Innovations in Emissions Reduction

- We ship by sea-freight instead of air-freight which reduces CO2 emissions associated with transportation. Air-freighting emits 500 grams of carbon dioxide per kilometre for 1,000 kilograms of goods, while sea freight emits only 15 grams per kilometre, on modern container vessels.
- We prioritise efficiency in our road and trucking operations, by optimising cartage and scheduling systems. This avoids empty trucks and facilitates the smooth transportation of materials and products to ports for shipping.

Fast facts about our environmental practices:

- All treated water undergoes secondary treatment at our local water treatment facility, preventing direct discharge into the environment.
- We replaced our coal boiler with a natural gas system, reducing carbon emissions.
- We've made significant investment in mechanical scrubbers in the tanning process, to remove VOC contaminants and eliminate odours in the tannery environment.





/ Eco-Efficiency: Recycling in Our Processes

At Fibre by Auskin, we understand the importance of recycling in our production processes and have implemented sustainable systems to ensure we are doing our part:

- We source materials for eco-friendly packaging, filling, and labelling from manufacturers using 100% recycled materials
- We sell bio-waste for conversion into fertilisers or biofuel.
- We sell grease, recovered from our dry-clean plant, as biofuel.
- Waste materials with chemical content, undergo strict compliance measures, with government-supervised waste transfer approval processes.
- We dispose of waste materials from grey-water treatment, processed at municipal plants, in line with government regulations.
- We sell or recycle wooden pallets, chemical drums, containers, plastic, and cardboard.
- We sell wool clippings and recover trimmings to repurpose or sell them for wool production.
- We use damaged skins and offcuts in production to minimise waste.
- We craft long-lasting products from what would otherwise be discarded.

By incorporating all of these initiatives into every stage of our production process including our Auto Tan Closed Loop production process, we're able to significantly decrease our environmental footprint and make a positive impact on the environment.

Fibre by Auskin is passionate about delivering sheepskins that reflect the true essence of nature. Through our dedication to efficient processes and responsible chemical usage, we're able to offer products that combine quality, sustainability, and the inherent beauty of the raw materials. It's a commitment that we hold dear as we strive to provide you with sheepskins that you can feel good about buying.

Notes

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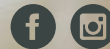


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Sustainably Produced,
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SUSTAINABILITY JOURNEY VISIT:**

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