Animal Fibres and Ingredients in Textiles, Shoes and Accessories

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Content

1. Animal Fibres 3
2. Coloring Dyes And Components 4
3. Glues 4
4. Waxes 5
5. Fats & Oils 5
6. Other Animal Ingredients 6

General

PETA's list is here to help companies and people to identify and avoid animal ingredients in textiles, shoes and accessories. Keep in mind that this list is not all-inclusive and the list covers the main animal fibres, glues, waxes that can be part of textile products. There are thousands of technical, brand and patented names for ingredient variations or combinations. Many ingredients known by one name can be of animal, vegetable, or synthetic origin. If the origin of one product and its ingredients is unclear, producers have to help with a detailed description to make it transparent if their product is free of animal ingredients.

1. Animal Fibres

Restricted Fibres	Description
Anaphe	A wild silk from the larvae of the anaphe moth. See Silk.
Alligator Skin	See Leather.
Alpaca	Hair of a camelid (Vicugna pacos).
Angora	Hair from the angora rabbit and its domestic breeds.
Animal Hair	In some blankets, mattresses, brushes, furniture, etc.
Antheraea Spp	See Silk.
Beaver	Hair of the North American beaver (Castor canadensis) and Eurasian beaver (Castor fiber).
Byssus	Fabric, also known as sea silk, which is made using the byssus of pen shells as a fiber source. A byssus is a group of strong filaments that are secreted by some families of clams (bivalve molluscs), in order to attach themselves to hard surfaces.
Calfskin	See Leather.
Camel	Hair of a member of the family Camelidae like Bactrian camel (Camelus bactrianus), Dromedary (Camelus dromedarius) or Wild camel (Camelus ferus).
Capiz	See Seashell. The windowpane oyster (Placuna placenta) also known as capiz, is a bivalve marine mollusk.
Coarse	See Alpaca.
Cashgora	Hair from the crossbreed of angora and cashmere goat and its domestic breeds.
Catgut	Type of cord that is prepared from the natural fibre found in the walls of animal intestines, commonly from sheep or goat.
Chamois	Soft leather from the skin of the chamois antelope, sheep, goats, deer. See Leather.
Chiengora	Yarn or wool spun from dog hair.
Chitosan	A fiber derived from crustacean shells. Can be mixed with viscose to create textile fibres like Crabyon.
Damask	Originally a silk fabric made in Damascus. See Silk.
Doupioni	Irregular and rough silk taken from double cocoons which are reeled together. Also Dupion. Nowadays mostly applied to imitations of man-made fabrics. See Silk.
Down	The undercoating of waterfowl (especially ducks and geese). See Feathers.
Eri	A type of wild silk. See Silk.
Feathers	Epidermal appendage of a bird, like chickens, geese or ducks.
Fur	Animal hair with skin attached from various mammals like minks, foxes or rabbits.
Guanaco	Rare hair of a camelid (Lama guanicoe).
Honan	A fabric made with wild silk from Henan in Eastern China. See Silk.
Horsehair	See Animal Hair.
Huarizo	See Alcpaca.
Horn	Pointed projection on the head of various animals like buffalos or deer consisting of a covering of keratin and other proteins. Used for buttons and applications.
Kashmir	See Cashmere.
Kemp	A type of sheep's hair, weak and brittle. See Wool.
Lambskin	Hide of a young sheep. The sheepskin is tanned with the fleece intact, as in a pelt.
Leather	Tanned hides and skins of animals from mammals, reptiles, fish and birds. Mostly from cattle, sheep, goat, pig. The skins of alligators, snakes, ostriches, kangaroos, oxen, sting ray and yaks are also used for leather.
Llama	Hair of a camelid (lama glama).
Merino	Fine wool from merino sheep. See Wool.
Milk fibre	Fibre from milk protein. Mostly from cows.
Mohair	Hair of the angora goat.
Muga	Wild type of silk.
Nacre	Composite material produced by some molluscs as an inner shell layer. Used for buttons and jewelry.
Otter	Hair of the various weasel species Lurinae.

Pantholops Hogsoni	See Shahtoosh.
Pashmina	Fine type of cashmere wool. Also pashm or pashmina. See Cashmere.
Pearl	Concretion of layers of pain-dulling nacre formed around a foreign particle within the shell of various bivalve molluscs, principally the oyster.
Rabbit Hair	Fur from common or wild rabbits.
Qiviut	Wool of the muskox. Also qiviut, qiviuq, sometimes spelled qiveut.
Seashell	Hard, protective outer layer created by an animal that lives in the sea. The shell is part of the body of the animals, like mollusks, crabs or lobsters.
Sea Silk	See Byssus.
Shahtoosh	Wool from the endangered Tibetan antelope or chiru (Pantholops hodgsonii).
Silk	Fibre obtained from silk-secreting insects like silkworms, crickets or spiders. Common variations include Tussah, Peace, Atlas or Eri Silk.
Suede	Type of leather with a napped finish, primarily lamb, goat, goat, calf or deer.
Suri	See Alpaca.
Tussah Silk	A coarse silk produced by a wild silkworm. Mainly: Antheraea Mylitta (largely Indian), Antheraea Pernyi (largely Chinese), And Antheraea Yama-mai (largely Japanese). Also Tussore.
Vicuna	Hair of a camlid (Vicugna vicugna).
Yak	Hair of a bovid (Bos grunniens and Bos mutus) and its domestic forms.

2. Coloring Dyes And Components

Restricted Ingredients	Description
Albumen	Sometimes derived from egg whites, but also from vegetable flour. In eggs, milk, muscles, blood, and many vegetable tissues and fluids. Can be used as thickening and a fixing agent for insoluble pigments for textile printing. Derivative: Albumin.
Carmine	Red pigment for dyes, that is produced from carminic acid from some scale insects such as the cochineal scale and certain Porphyrophora species. Also called crimson lake, cochineal, natural red 4, C.I. 75470 or E120.
Casein paint	Derived from milk casein and used mostly in paints, but usable as binder for dyes.
Cochineal	See Carmine.
Kermesic acid	Red dye that is extracted from the shell of the kermes insects (Kermes vermillio, Kermes palestinensis).
Lac	Red dye from scarlet resinous secretion of a number of species of lac insects, most commonly Kerria lacca. Is processed into seedlac, sticklac and shellac.
Polish cochineal	Red Dye of scale insects (Porphyrophora polonica) that itself contains carminic acid with small amounts of kermesic acid. See Carmine.
Sepia	Ink from cuttlefish of the order Sepiida.
Shellac	See Lac.
Octopus ink	Ink from a cephalopod mollusc of the order Octopoda based on the natural pigment melanin and mucus which can be red, black and brown.
Tekhelet	See Tyrian purple.
Tyrian purple	Purple-blue indigo dye that is derived from this species of sea snails, mostly Hexaplex trunculus. Also known as Murex trunculus or the banded dye-murex and Tyrian red, royal purple, imperial purple or imperial dye.
Urea	Typically synthetic. Can be used for application of dyes. When extracted from animals, it is excreted from urine and other bodily fluids. Derivatives: Imidazolidinyl Urea, Uric Acid. Alternatives: synthetics.

3. Glues

Restricted Ingredients	Description
Bone glue	Derived mostly from bones of cattle and pigs and other mammals.

Casein glue	This protein is derived from milk of cows, goats or other mammals. See Casein.
Fish glue	Derived from the bones, skins of various fish species. Used for gluing leather components, especially shoes.
Gelatin	Protein obtained by boiling skin, tendons, ligaments, and/or bones in water. Mostly from cows and pigs.
Hide glue	Derived from bovine skins and smaller mammal's hides.
Isinglass	Glue made from swim bladders of various fish species.
Rabbit skin glue	Mainly from skins of rabbits, although other animal ingredients can be mixed in.

4. Waxes

Restricted Ingredients	Description
Arachidyl Propionate	A wax that can be from animal fat. Can be used for color protection of textiles. Alternatives: peanut or vegetable oil.
Beeswax	From virgin bees. Wax obtained from melting honeycomb with boiling water, straining it, and cooling it. Used to make polishing cloths or during resist dyeing. Derivatives: Cera Flava.
Chinese Wax	Produced by the scale insect Ceroplastes ceriferus. Can be used for polishing and resist dyeing. Also named Chinese tree wax, Chinese insect wax, Insect wax.
Lanolin	A product of the oil glands of sheep, extracted from their wool. Used as an emollient in many skin-care products and cosmetics and in medicines. Derivatives: Aliphatic Alcohols, Cholesterin, Isopropyl Lanolate, Laneth, Lanogene, Lanolin Alcohols, Lanosterols, Sterols, Triterpene Alcohols. Alternatives: plant and vegetable oils.
Shellac Wax	Produced by the lac insect Kerria lacca.
Spermaceti	Waxy oil originally derived from the sperm whale's head or from dolphins but now most often derived from petroleum. Used in the leather industry or as plasticizer. Alternatives: synthetic spermaceti, jojoba oil, and other vegetable emollients. Also Cetyl Palmitate. Sperm Oil.
Wool Wax	See Lanolin.

5. Fats & Oils

Restricted Ingredients	Description
Animal Fats and Oils	Of various animals like pigs, cows, fish etc. Can be used as lubricants or softeners and for traditional coating. Alternatives: olive oil, wheat germ oil, coconut oil, flaxseed oil, almond oil, safflower oil, etc.
Cod Liver Oil	See Marine Oil.
Emu Oil	From flightless ratite birds native to Australia and now factory-farmed. Used in cosmetics and creams. Alternatives: vegetable and plant oils.
Glycerin. Glycerol.	Can be made from animal fats. A byproduct of soap manufacture.. In textile industry used to soften yarn and to lubricate fibres. Derivatives: Glycerides, Glyceryls, Glycreth-26, Polyglycerol. Alternatives: vegetable glycerin (a byproduct of vegetable oil soap), derivatives of seaweed, petroleum.
Fatty Acids	Mostly plant based, but can also be derived from animal fats. Producers have to provide information on the origin, when in doubt. Can be one or any mixture of liquid and solid acids such as caprylic, lauric, myristic, oleic, palmitic, and stearic. Alternatives: vegetable-derived acids, soy lecithin, safflower oil, bitter almond oil, sunflower oil, etc.
Fish Oil	See Marine Oil. Fish oil can also be from marine mammals.
Lard	Fat from hog abdomens. Alternatives: pure vegetable fats or oils.
Marine Oil	From fish or marine mammals (including porpoises). Used as lubricant, and in paint. Alternatives: vegetable oils.
Shark Liver Oil	Used as lubricant. Derivatives: Squalane, Squalene. Alternatives: vegetable oils.

Squalene	Oil from shark livers, etc. Used for textile coating. Alternatives: vegetable emollients such as olive oil, wheat germ oil, rice bran oil, etc.
Tallow	Rendered beef fat. Used as lubricants and softeners. Derivatives: Sodium Tallowate, Tallow Acid, Tallow Amide, Tallow Amine, Talloweth-6, Tallow Glycerides, Tallow Imidazoline. Alternatives: vegetable tallow, Japan tallow, paraffin, ceresin (see alternatives to Beeswax). Paraffin is usually from petroleum, wood, coal, or shale oil.
Turtle Oil	From the muscles and genitals of giant sea turtles. In soap, skin creams, nail creams, other cosmetics. Alternatives: vegetable emollients (see alternatives to Animal Fats and Oils).

6. Other Animal Ingredients

Restricted Ingredients	Description
Allantoin	Uric acid from cows, most mammals. Also in many plants (especially comfrey). Can be used to equip textiles. Derivatives: Alcloxa, Aldioxa. Alternatives: extract of comfrey root, synthetics.
Ambergris	Solid waxy substance originating in the intestine of the sperm whale (Physeter catodon). Rarely used today due to trade restrictions. Alternatives: synthetic or vegetable fixatives.
Blood	From any slaughtered animal. Used as adhesive in plywood, also found foam rubber. Alternatives: synthetics, plant sources.
Boar Bristles	Hair from wild or captive hogs. In “natural” toothbrushes and bath and shaving brushes. Alternatives: vegetable fibers, nylon, the peelu branch or peelu gum (Asian, available in the U.S.; its juice replaces toothpaste).
Bone Char	Animal bone ash. Used in bone china and often to make sugar white. Serves as the charcoal used in aquarium filters. Alternatives: synthetic tribasic calcium phosphate.
Bone Meal	Crushed or ground animal bones. Alternatives: plant mulch, vegetable compost, dolomite, clay, vegetarian vitamins.
Casein	Proteins commonly from the milk of mammals, like cow, goat, pig. Can be used to make fibres and glues.
Cysteine, L-Form.	An amino acid from hair that can come from animals. Alternatives: plant sources.
Cystine	An amino acid found in urine and horsehair. Can be used as a nutritional supplement of cellulosic fibres. Alternatives: plant sources.
Guanine	Obtained from scales of fish. Constituent of ribonucleic acid and deoxyribonucleic acid and found in all animal and plant tissues. Alternatives: leguminous plants, synthetic pearl, or aluminum and bronze particles.
Hyaluronic Acid	When animal-derived, a protein found in umbilical cords and the fluids around the joints. Used in cosmetics and some medical applications. Alternatives: synthetic hyaluronic acid, plant oils.
Keratin	Protein from the ground-up horns, hooves, feathers, quills, and hair of various animals. In washing products, permanent wave solutions.
Lecithin	Waxy substance in nervous tissue of all living organisms. But frequently obtained for commercial purposes from eggs and soybeans. Also from nerve tissue, blood, milk, corn. Choline bitartrate, the basic constituent of lecithin, is in many animal and plant tissues and prepared synthetically. Lecithin can be used for treatment of fibrous textile materials of all kinds. Alternatives: soybean lecithin, synthetics.
Lipase	Enzyme from the stomachs and tongue glands of calves, kids, and lambs. Used in textile fibre processing. Alternatives: vegetable enzymes, castor beans.
Lipoid	Fat and fat-like substances that are found in animals and plants. Also called Lipids.Alternatives: vegetable oils.
Myristic Acid	Organic acid typically derived from nut oils but occasionally of animal origin. Used as enzyme in textile finishing. Derivatives: Isopropyl Myristate, Myristal Ether

	Sulfate, Myristyls, Oleyl Myristate. Alternatives: nut butters, oil of lovage, coconut oil, extract from seed kernels of nutmeg, etc.
Nucleic Acids	In the nucleus of all living cells. Used as enzyme in textile finishing. Alternatives: plant sources.
Oleic Acid	Obtained from various animal and vegetable fats and oils. Usually obtained commercially from inedible tallow. (See Tallow.) Used as textile lubricant. Derivatives: Oleyl Oleate, Oleyl Stearate. Alternatives: coconut oil. (See alternatives to Animal Fats and Oils.)
Oleyl Alcohol	Found in fish oils. Used in the manufacture of detergents, as a plasticizer for softening fabrics and textiles. Derivatives: Oleths, Oleyl Arachidate, Oleyl Imidazoline.
Pepsin	In hogs' stomachs. A clotting agent for Casein-fibres. Same uses and alternatives as Rennet.
Polypeptides	From animal protein. Can be used to finish textiles... Alternatives: plant proteins and enzymes.
Polysorbates	Derivatives of fatty acids. Used as antistatic agents, fiber lubricants, and finish emulsifiers.
Pristane	Obtained from the liver oil of sharks and from whale ambergris. (See Squalene, Ambergris.) Used as a lubricant. Alternatives: plant oils, synthetics.
Propolis	Tree sap gathered by bees and used as a sealant in beehives. Can be used for textile finishing, but not common. Alternatives: tree sap, synthetics.
Rennet	Enzyme from calves' stomachs. Alternatives: microbial coagulating agents, bacteria culture, lemon juice, or vegetable rennet.
Rennin	See Rennet.
Sable Brushes	From the fur of sables (weasel-like mammals). Alternatives: synthetic fibers.
Sponge (Luna and Sea)	A plantlike animal. Lives in the sea. Becoming scarce. Alternatives: synthetic sponges, loofahs (plants used as sponges).
Stearic Acid	When animal-derived, a fat mostly from cows, pigs, and sheep. May also be of plant origin, including from cocoa butter and shea butter. Derivatives: Stearamide, Stearamine, Stearates, Stearic Hydrazide, Stearone, Stearoxytrimethylsilane, Stearoyl Lactylic Acid, Stearyl Betaine, Stearyl Imidazoline. Alternatives: Stearic acid can be found in many vegetable fats, coconut.
Stearyl Alcohol	A mixture of solid alcohols. Can be prepared from sperm whale oil. Derivatives: Stearamine Oxide, Stearyl Acetate, Stearyl Caprylate, Stearyl Citrate, Stearyldimethyl Amine, Stearyl Glycyrrhetinate, Stearyl Heptanoate, Stearyl Octanoate, Stearyl Stearate. Alternatives: plant sources, vegetable stearic acid.
Vitamin A	Can come from fish liver oil (e.g., shark liver oil), egg yolk, butter, lemongrass, wheat germ oil, carotene in carrots, and synthetics. An aliphatic alcohol. In cosmetics, creams, perfumes, hair dyes, etc. In vitamins, supplements. Alternatives: carrots, other vegetables, synthetics.

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