

#FUR FREE EU

THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF FUR FARMING



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"In this sense, fur is simply bad design. It's stuck in the past, it needs to be slowly grown from the body of an animal, preserved in toxic chemicals and kept cool in the heat so it doesn't decompose or get devoured by insects, as nature intended it to."

Joshua Katcher, Designer &
Professor at Fashion at Parsons The New School

03-02-2015 "Fur is simply bad design" in Huffington Post http://www.huffingtonpost.com/joshua-katcher/fur-is-simply-bad-design_b_6771216.html



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- 5 Krautter, M (2011) Poison in fur-Report II. Questionable Chemicals in Fur Products. EcoAid p.41 Anima (2015) Kemisk pels. http://filer.anima.dk/pdf/kemiskpels_web.pdf LAV Press release 26 February 2015 "Toxic and carcinogenic fur in baby clothing" http://www.lav.it/cpanelav/js/ckeditor/kcfinder/upload/files/files/CS_26022015_TOXIC%20FUR_INGLESE.pdf
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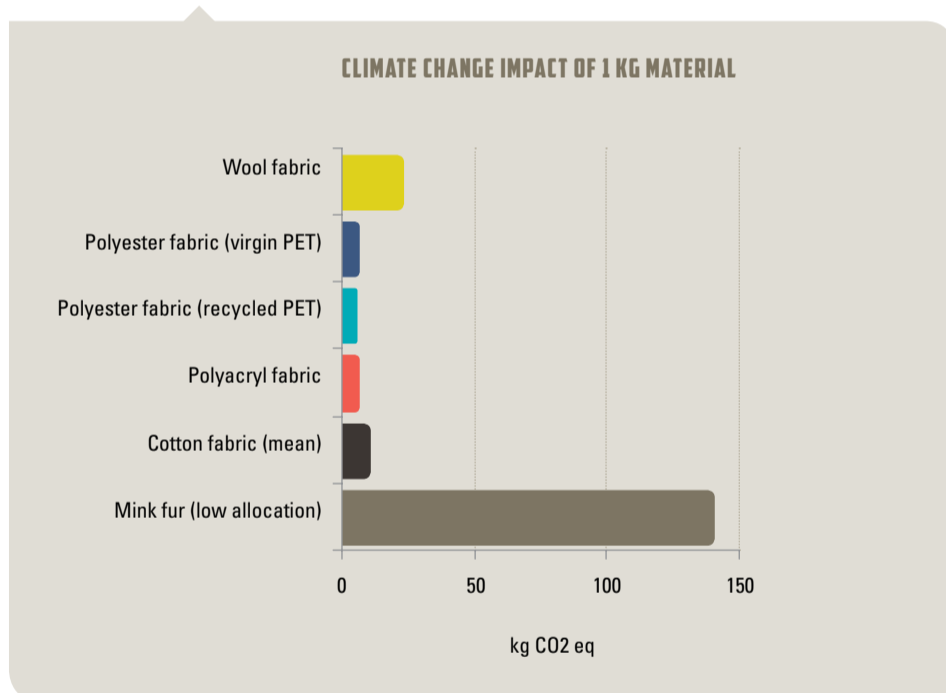
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FUR IS INEFFICIENTLY PRODUCED

The production of 1 kg of mink fur equals an emission factor of about 110 kg CO₂, which equals a car drive of more than 1.250 km.¹ The analysis is made on the basis that 1 kg of fur consists of approximately 11 animals. They need about 563 kg of feed to produce 1 kg of fur which means fur is inefficiently produced.²

THE CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT OF FUR IS HIGH COMPARED TO OTHER FABRICS

It can be stated with clarity that fur is the least preferable fabric. The climate change impact of 1 kg of mink fur is five times higher than that of wool, the highest-scoring textile in a life cycle assessment conducted by the independent research organisation CE Delft. The impact of mink fur production was compared with common textiles on 18 different environmental issues such as climate change, eutrophication and toxic emissions. For 17 of the 18 issues, fur was found to be significantly more harmful than other types of fabric.³ The impact on climate change is not only high compared to fabrics, not many raw materials score as high per kg on climate change as fur.⁴



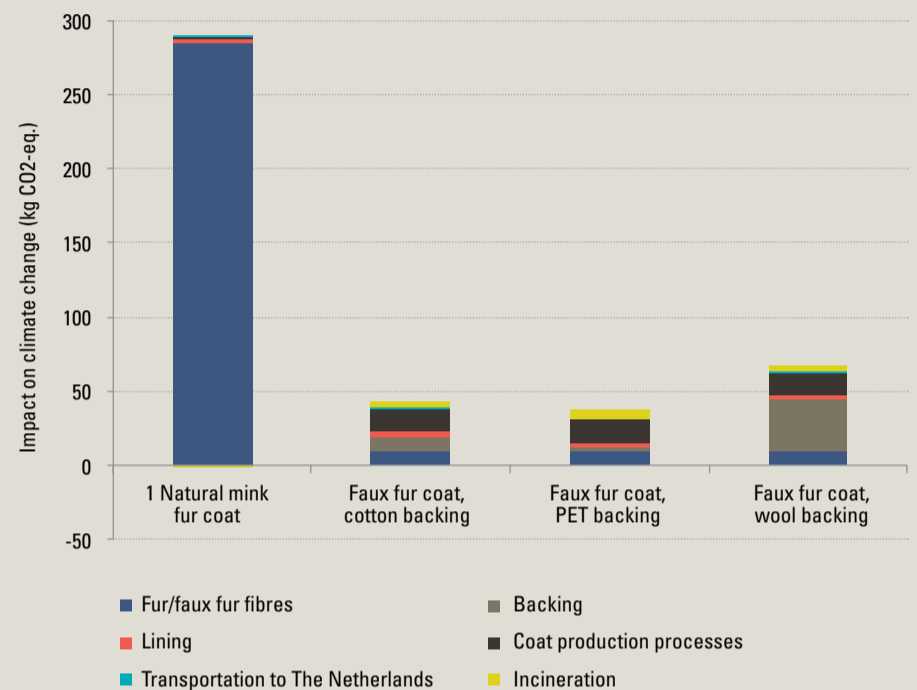
FUR IS HEAVILY PROCESSED WITH CHEMICALS

Fur is heavily processed with chemicals to prevent the animals' skins from decomposing, using heavy metals, organic solvents, organochlorine pesticides, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and reduced organic nitrate compounds. Fur garments have been found to contain hazardous and carcinogenic chemicals, endocrine disruptors and allergens.⁵

In tests, six clothing items for children and adolescents all contained hazardous chemicals:⁶

- All products contained formaldehyde, which causes allergies and cancer.
- All products contained NPEO (nonylphenol ethoxylates) which are endocrine disruptors.
- 4 of 6 products contained chromium, which can potentially cause allergies.
- 2 of 6 contained chromium VI, which is highly allergenic, is known to cause eczema and is genotoxic.
- 2 of 6 contained PAHs (Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons), many of which are carcinogenic.⁷

IMPACT ON CLIMATE CHANGE COMPARISON 1 MINK FUR COAT, 1 FAUX FUR COAT, EXCL. MAINTENANCE, SIMILAR LIFESPAN



ALTERNATIVE MATERIALS ARE MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND

A comparison between mink fur and faux fur finds that even the use of up to 5 faux fur coats have a significantly less environmental impact in total than the use of 1 mink fur coat.⁸

The lifespan of a fur coat is likely to be determined by the change in fashion, and in that case the lifespan of a mink fur coat and a faux fur coat is equal.⁹ In addition, most fur is used for fur trims. Fur trims and faux fur trims are not likely to be recycled.¹⁰

Fur is promoted by the fur industry to have a long life-span, and with that comes the assumption that the environmental impact of fur is watered down over time, but as we can see that is not true. In addition, the environmental impacts of alternative and modern fabrics are lessened even more in comparison to fur as companies like H&M have started working with recycling to prolong the life of their products.¹¹

