

## Environmental Friendliness of **SuperFabric**<sup>®</sup> brand materials

**SuperFabric**<sup>®</sup> brand material consists of plates printed onto a base fabric. The plates are inert, eco-friendly materials and **SuperFabric**<sup>®</sup> brand material can be printed onto many different base fabrics including fabrics made from renewable, environmentally friendly materials such as cotton. To evaluate the eco-friendliness of **SuperFabric**<sup>®</sup> brand material, consider what occurs when **SuperFabric**<sup>®</sup> brand material that is constructed from a biodegradable substrate is disposed of in a landfill. The fabric components will biodegrade over time leaving behind the plates, which are hard, inert, non-toxic “pebbles”. Furthermore, the process used in the manufacture of **SuperFabric**<sup>®</sup> brand materials produces negligible amounts of volatiles or hazardous by-products.

In addition to the environmentally friendly processing and disposal of **SuperFabric**<sup>®</sup> brand materials, the use of **SuperFabric**<sup>®</sup> brand materials can actually reduce the total amount of fibers that are disposed of every year. This is because using **SuperFabric**<sup>®</sup> brand materials in clothing will significantly increase the lifetime of the clothing, hence reducing the rate of disposal of clothing materials.

There are a wide variety of environmentally-friendly **SuperFabric**<sup>®</sup> brand materials that can be constructed. For example, non-halogenated flame retardants can be used with **SuperFabric**<sup>®</sup> brand materials along with a flame-retardant cotton substrate to produce an eco-friendly flame-retardant, wear-resistant product.

**SuperFabric**<sup>®</sup> brand materials can be used as a substitute for leather. For example, boots and jackets have been made from **SuperFabric**<sup>®</sup> brand material. Widespread replacement of leather with **SuperFabric**<sup>®</sup> brand materials would have a strong positive effect on the environment since leather tanning produces a great deal of waste and pollution that **SuperFabric**<sup>®</sup> brand materials do not. Leather tanning usually consumes a large amount of water and also generates pollutants such as sulfides and chromium. It has been estimated that the leather tanning industry generates 800,000 tons of chrome shavings annually and much of this chromium waste ends up in landfills. Furthermore, the leather tanning process releases volatile organic components into the atmosphere. In contrast, the manufacture of **SuperFabric**<sup>®</sup> brand materials does not consume any water or release any pollutants into the environment.

In conclusion, from manufacturing to disposal, **SuperFabric**<sup>®</sup> brand materials are an environmentally-friendly product that can lead to a significant reduction in pollution and total waste disposal.