

# PATH TO SUSTAINABILITY

How Sunbrella® Is Moving Forward in Sustainable Manufacturing

BY SUNBRELLA

When it comes to designing with fabric, not only do you want to feel good about the way it looks and performs, but you also want to feel good about the materials and processes that go into making those fabrics. Knowing that a textile manufacturer is actively taking measures to facilitate changes that lead to operating more sustainably is even better.

This year, Sunbrella debuts a new immersive design experience at Interior Design's Hall of Fame. Inspired by the ingenuity and innovation this major design event represents, Sunbrella, with help from the talented design and architect team of TsAO & McKOWN Architects, will transform the Great Hall at River Pavilion in the Javits Center to give onlookers an in-depth experience with the journey a fiber takes to become a Sunbrella performance fabric. This behind-the-scenes look showcases the rigorous focus on the quality and sustainable manufacturing that Sunbrella is known for. As the textile industry overall moves into integrating more sustainable practices, Sunbrella strives to embrace an unwavering commitment to environmental stewardship in every fabric it makes.

## FROM FIBER TO FABRIC

Vertical integration is a way to ensure a company has greater control over multiple stages of the production process, such as creating yarn from fibers and weaving the final fabric. Having greater control over fabric production allows Sunbrella to not only drive optimal product quality consistently, but also ensures sustainable manufacturing processes are used in more steps of the fabric production cycle. Sunbrella adds an extra degree of control as a performance fabric manufacturer, making its own yarns after sourcing the highest quality proprietary fibers.

## EXPERTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Sunbrella prides itself on a unique manufacturing processes that drives performance and sustainability. Skilled technical experts and a trained sustainability team regularly track, monitor and measure the overall efficiency of manufacturing facilities. Additionally, Sunbrella works closely with manufacturers to develop and source the highest quality proprietary raw materials. Being vertically integrated allows Sunbrella and its facilities to operate at high-level quality, and these teams are at the core of making that possible every day.

## MANUFACTURING PROCESS INITIATIVES

Finding new uses for excess fiber, yarn and fabric is just one area of sustainability Sunbrella is committed to. Sunbrella plant facilities have sustainable manufacturing process initiatives put in place to help carry out the brand's mission of being an environmentally conscious business. All five of Glen Raven's domestic manufacturing centers are **Zero Waste to Landfill**. Over the last year, Sunbrella facilities in the U.S. have recycled nearly 2.5 million pounds of textile waste, which equates to diverting 95 garbage truck loads from the landfill and is the same weight as 160 adult male elephants!

Sunbrella upholstery fabrics are 100% solution-dyed. Unlike conventional coloring processes, solution-dyeing **reduces wastewater**. Additionally, Sunbrella owns and operates solar arrays at the plants in Anderson, South Carolina and in Norlina, North Carolina. They collectively generate 1.5 megawatts of energy – capable of producing enough energy to power over 150 homes.

Sunbrella and Sunbrella Contract fabrics hold third-party certifications to assure the trade and consumers the quality of the product and the process. Sunbrella upholstery fabrics have been verified in an independent laboratory and tested for harmful substances according to **STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX®**, earning a Class II level. Sunbrella Contract fabrics have been independently certified by UL Environment for **Facts Silver** certification. These fabrics meet the NSF/ANSI 336 standard, a multi-attribute sustainability standard for contract fabrics.

Additionally, to demonstrate the long-term commitment that Sunbrella has made to provide exceptional products while recognizing environmental responsibilities, the company meets the standards for **ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management** and **ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management** certifications. ISO 9001:2015 helps ensure that customers get consistent, good quality products and services, while ISO 14001:2015 focuses on environmental systems to manage responsibilities, making certain that environmental impact is being measured and reduced.

## REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

Fabrics that don't meet high performance standards have predictably shorter life spans, and textile waste is inevitable for manufacturing facilities. Sunbrella is dedicated to quality fabrics, ensuring that you are getting a product that lasts longer and needs to be replaced less often, ultimately creating less waste. In any environment, Sunbrella products hold their color and strength, outlasting traditional fabrics. Here are other ways Sunbrella extends the fabric life span.

### Sunbrella Renaissance

Sunbrella Renaissance yarns combine up to 50% of postindustrial recycled Sunbrella fiber. Fabric waste is segmented into color groups, reduced back to its fiber state and then mixed with Sunbrella virgin fiber before making its way back through the fabric manufacturing process. The fiber blend helps ensure that the product meets stringent Sunbrella performance standards.

### Recycle My Sunbrella

Recycle My Sunbrella is a take-back program providing a unique way for customers and consumers to send their Sunbrella fabrics back to be recycled. The program provides an alternative to disposal for fabric scraps, awning covers, boat covers and upholstery fabric.

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