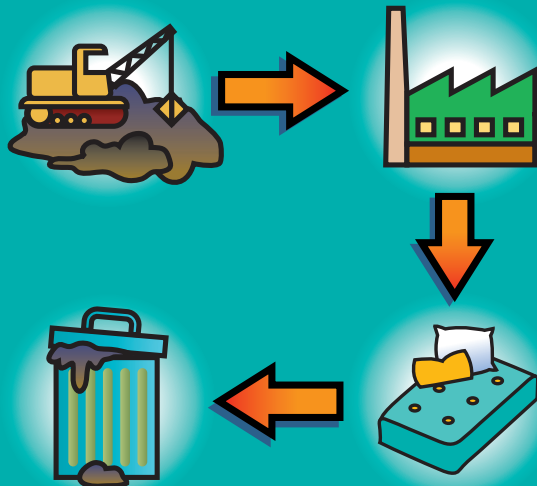


Sound asleep Resting easy at night starts with choosing a bed that is healthy for you and the environment.

Some mattresses contain polyurethane foam, which harms the ozone layer. Bed springs are often galvanised in lead, a hazardous substance linked to nervous disorders. Mattresses, bed linens and other household fabrics such as towels and upholstery all carry environmental risks. Choosing products with the European Eco-label lets you rest assured that:

- They're coloured with dyes that don't cause harm to the environment.
- They abide by limits in their use of flame retardants and other hazardous fabric treatments.
- They hold their shape, resist shrinkage and retain their colour.

Eco-labelled products avoid materials linked to health risks, and they're tested to ensure durability and value for money. These healthy products respect the environment throughout their **life cycle** (see diagram). Simply said, Eco-labelled goods are better by nature.



The European Eco-label

distinguishes products that meet high standards of both performance and environmental quality. Every product awarded the European Eco-label must pass rigorous environmental fitness trials, with results verified by an independent body.

Other environmental labels cover specific environmental concerns such as recyclability or energy efficiency, but the Flower of the European Eco-label stands for low environmental impacts throughout a product's life cycle — from manufacturing to disposal. Consumers can find it across the European Union, Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland.

Criteria exist for more than 23 types of products and services, with new categories continuously being adopted. The Flower adorns, among other items, environmentally friendly appliances, clothing, gardening products and tourist accommodations.

Look for the Flower!



CONTACT INFORMATION

The European Commission: ecolabel@ec.europa.eu
 Your national Competent Body:
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/tools/competentbodies_en.htm
 General information on the Flower: <http://ec.europa.eu/ecolabel>
 The Green Store: www.eco-label.com
 The European Eco-label on tourism services: <http://www.eco-label-tourism.com>



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The choice for **health** and **value**



Household fabrics

Includes goods such as bed linens, towels and washcloths, upholstery and draperies.

Environmental advantages

- Production processes are regulated to ensure lower overall environmental impact, particularly through restricting the use of hazardous substances.
- The whole production chain — from the taking of raw materials to delivery to retailers — must meet strict environmental criteria.
- Air pollution is minimised during production of artificial fibres by limiting the use of greenhouse gases and by avoiding emissions of air-polluting chemicals.
- Water pollution is minimised through the use of biodegradable lubricants in processes such as spinning.
- Wastewater from production processes must meet environmental standards for acidity and other attributes.

Energy

- Firms are requested, on a voluntary basis, to provide information about water and energy use during manufacturing.
- Energy savings at the factory lead to lower consumer prices.

Cotton farming accounts for almost a quarter of the world's pesticide use.

Bed mattresses

Environmental advantages

- Materials include minimal levels of harmful or toxic substances, such as ozone-depleting chemicals that are used to make synthetic foam wadding.
- Production of mattresses avoids the use of glues that can release air-polluting fumes.
- Bedsprings are made through a process that avoids spillage or emission of solvents.
- Springs cannot be rust-proofed through lead galvanising.
- Binding material in chipboard is strictly limited in its content of hazardous substances.
- Air pollution and emissions related to the frame of the mattress are kept to a minimum.

Energy savings

- Manufacturer are encouraged to follow production processes that conserve energy.

Before it gets the Eco-label, a bed mattress must pass a 30,000-compression durability test.



BETTER FOR YOUR HEALTH

- Strict limits are placed on pesticide levels in cotton fibres.
- Fabric dyes known to be carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic are prohibited.
- Other fabric treatments that pose health risks, such as flame retardants and anti-stain finishes, are tightly restricted.
- Any fabrics used in Eco-labelled bed mattress must themselves conform to European Eco-label criteria.
- Eco-labelled products reduce the risk of allergies.



BETTER FOR YOUR WALLET

- Fabrics remain colour-fast through wear, washing and perspiration.
- Fabrics for furniture and draperies meet the highest level of sun-fading resistance.
- Fabrics retain their shape and resist shrinkage.
- Bed mattresses must retain their firmness and thickness through a 30,000-cycle compression test before being awarded the European Eco-label.

Eco-labelled products retain their shape and resist shrinkage.