

Lenzing Innovation: TENCEL® now available for carpets

Lenzing continues to reinforce its "Leading Fiber Innovation" commitment. This season, a new fiber is presented for use in carpets. A leading fiber in the bed linen category, TENCEL® can be found in mattresses, mattress pads, bed spreads, comforters, sheets and pillow cases, making a more natural, botanic bed a dream come true. Now all the textiles used in the bedroom can be more natural in origin.

Botanic carpet

The new TENCEL® fiber offers a wide array of new features and benefits to the carpet industry and consumer. Previously, natural cellulose fibers were too fine and short to be used in carpeting, which requires coarser, longer fibers for processing. Now, for the first time, using the specially tailored TENCEL® fiber, natural cellulose fibers can be processed in carpets allowing the unique characteristics of TENCEL® to add valuable new properties to carpeting.

TENCEL® is characterized by excellent moisture management since moisture is absorbed inside the fiber and rapidly released into the environment. For consumers, this means that carpets made with TENCEL® help to decrease both tempera-

ture and humidity fluctuations as well as moisture formation on walls and windows, optimizing the indoor environment.

Due to this moisture managing capability, carpets made with TENCEL® can also effectively combat the formation of mold. Without the special moisture managing properties inherent in TENCEL®, carpeting may not have the ability to regulate moisture and can quickly become a haven for bacteria, mite and other organisms, leading to unpleasant smells. Importantly, carpets made entirely with TENCEL® are resistant to moth. TENCEL® is naturally moth-free since moth feed on proteins. Wool is made of proteins and carpets made from wool must be treated with chemicals to prevent moth attack.

Specifically important for carpeting is the fact that TENCEL® has a natural moisture content of 13%, compared to only 1% in synthetic fibers. Moisture acts like a static arrester and the higher moisture content prevents electrostatic charging and nasty static shocks.

TENCEL® fibers stand out in carpets due to their particularly good dye affinity and brilliant and expressive colors. The fiber guarantees long-lasting and intense color brilliancy.



Tencel® carpet.

Innovative partner

The first commercially manufactured TENCEL® carpets were developed by the Dutch manufacturers Best Wool Carpets. As specialists in woolen carpets, Best Wool's Managing Director, Yvar Monasch, believes TENCEL® goes particularly well with wool. "The TENCEL® fiber can be applied universally. It can be used in the carpet pile as well as in the tuft and back parts since TENCEL® has a high fiber tenacity", Monasch explains.

Monasch also sees advantages in woolen carpets due to the eco-friendliness of TENCEL® and its temperature and humidity regulating properties.

Courtesy: Lenzing AG, Business Unit Textile Fibers.

Sleep and Dream Awards 2009

The IWTO Sleep & Dream Awards 2009 focuses on new innovations and designs using wool in the bedding sector. The project's aim is to strengthen the focus and the visibility of wool and wool blends along the whole textile pipeline.

The three best bedding innovations from the IWTO Sleep & Dream Awards 2009 were displayed at Heimtextil. The stand provided to the three winners for their projects is a one-roof platform with three individual sub-sections for each of individual displayed their works and creations with wool.

Lavalan – washable wool by Baur Vliesstoffe

Mattress encasing with virgin wool/Ingeo™ filling can be washed at high temperatures – up to 60°C - and retain its form. It combines the advantages of wool with easy-care properties of other fibres to deliver the perfect form, active hygiene and outstanding sleeping comfort. The filling makes the difference, breathable and washable, ecological and sustainable: Baur nonwovens provide outstanding sleeping systems for an even higher quality of life.

John Marshall and Company Limited - JMCO Ltd.

Joma and Glenoit pooled their know-how and technology to create a breakthrough in sleep comfort. Engineered performance of the Joma crimped wool in a Glenoit pile fabric, created the Three Dimensional Sleeping Surface. The purpose of the pile fabric is to replace the usual cotton or synthetic fibre mattress ticking. Not only will it provide all the benefits of wool at 500gsm, but also provide a safe, chemical-free, fire resistant barrier that will meet stringent Californian fire regulations relating to bedding construction.

Woolcore by magari – Charlotte Sehmisch

The supporting material of the bed construction is exclu-

sively wool felt fixed to the wooden frame made from steam bent plywood. The bed is set together like Lego building blocks, made up from the wooden frame, elliptic comb mattress, two felt fixtures as well as 16 wooden rods that complete the construction without any metal parts.

In this bed all the positive properties of wool felt are used: wool as a natural material makes for a comfortable microclimate at high and low temperatures. Made from vertical comb like structures the mattress is firm, comfortable and well aerated.

The Jury also awarded Certificates of Merit to the following entrants for their contributions to the contest:

- ❖ Saroj Bala and Sonali Pal of Pearl Academy of Fashion, India .
- ❖ Sandra Garcia, Uruguay.
- ❖ Karola König of Agentur Karola König, Germany.
- ❖ Claudia Weiss de Machado of Montelan S.A., Uruguay.
- ❖ Ulrich Samper of Usam Holzgestaltung, Germany.
- ❖ Peter Sheldon of FibreTech New Zealand Ltd, New Zealand.

Courtesy: ROOMS FOR FREE e.V. Wilhelm-Busch-Str. 8, D-09127 Chemnitz, Germany. ♦

