

## Why Hemp is in Every Perfect Pad®



### Hemp

As the premier plant fiber, True Hemp or Cannabis sativa has served mankind for thousands of years. This venerable fiber has always been valued for its strength and durability. Materials made from hemp have been discovered in tombs dating back to 8,000 B.C.E. Christopher Columbus sailed to America on ships rigged with hemp. Hemp was grown extensively in colonial America by numerous farmers including George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. Betsy Ross sewed the first American flag from hemp. In fact, its combination of ruggedness and comfort were utilized by Levi Strauss as a lightweight duck canvas for the very first pair of jeans made in California.

The hemp used in Perfect Pads is grown sustainably and cooperatively in communal farms in China as a companion crop. This is done for many reasons:

1. Hemp is an excellent rotation and companion crop, especially favored by organic farmers and those wishing to reduce the use of chemicals on their other crops.
2. Hemp improves the yields of subsequent compatible crops, primary due to improved soil structure and weed suppression.
3. Studies have proven that crops of winter wheat grown after hemp was planted have reported a 10-20% greater yield.
4. The hemp plant is naturally insect resistant and has few, if any predators – it also provides this protection to the primary crops its being grown with.
5. Hemp can be grown on a commercial scale without the use of pesticides provides some pest protection for compatible crops.
6. Hemp reduces pathogenic soil nematodes.
7. Hemp fiber crops are characterized by rapid early growth and density of crop leading to strong weed suppression in healthy soils - weed control carries over to following crop, making it easy to avoid using herbicides on the following crop.
8. Hemp nutrient requirements can be supplied through appropriate planting regimens and organic fertilizers, if fertilizers are needed at all.
9. Hemp improves soil quality improves soil ventilation (as a result of its deep tap roots) and water balance provides excellent shade resulting in a thriving colony of soil fauna.
10. Hemp drops most of its leaves before harvest, which naturally improves the condition of the soil.
11. Hemp's strong root systems and heavy canopy helps reduce erosion.
12. Reduces eutrophication of lakes and rivers as a result of agriculture.
13. Hemp can be cultivated on marginal or damaged soils, although yields will be reduced.

### Superior Properties

Hemp fiber is one of the strongest and most durable of all natural textile fibers. Products made from hemp will outlast their competition by many years. Not only is hemp strong, but it also holds its shape, stretching less than any other natural fiber. This prevents hemp garments from stretching out or becoming distorted with use. Hemp may be known for its durability, but its comfort and style are second to none. The more hemp is used, the softer it gets. Hemp doesn't wear out, it wears in. Hemp is also naturally resistant to mold and ultraviolet light.

Due to the porous nature of the fiber, hemp is more water absorbent than any fabric including cotton.

### Environmental Advantages

Hemp is an extremely fast growing crop, producing more fiber yield per acre than any other source. Hemp can produce 250% more fiber than cotton and 600% more fiber than flax using the same amount of land.

Moreover, hemp does not exhaust the soil. Hemp plants shed their leaves all through the growing season, adding rich organic matter to the topsoil and helping it retain moisture. Farmers have reported excellent hemp growth on land that had been cultivated steadily for nearly 100 years.

### Wash & Care of Hemp Fabrics

Hemp articles of all kinds can take any amount of washing and keep coming up for more. They thrive on regular use and regular laundering.

Considered "Bullet-proof" by many experts hemp is an amazingly strong, long-lasting fabric that launders easily. It handles extreme water temperatures well, and can be considered as a machine washable linen.

Over time it produces significant cost savings for owners because it has a much longer lifespan than all other natural fabrics. Because of the highly porous nature of the hemp fiber (i.e., magnified under a microscope it's filled with lots of holes) hemp dries extremely quickly naturally (in the open air) or is easily tumble-dried.