

January 2018
Sustainable Modern Quilting

We love
fabric



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fabric

and
yet...



issues

- Growing cotton uses a LOT of water and pesticides
- Textile industry is the 2nd most polluting after oil and gas
- The textile industry is notorious for exploitative labor practices.

better choices?

There's no perfect choice – lots of tradeoffs

BUT

it is possible to find new fabric that is easier on the planet and people.

Could some of these alternatives fit in with your needs and values?

alternatives

linen

- Made from flax – requires little water, few pesticides
- Soft, great texture
- Can wiggle around: great for curves, less so for precision piecing (try starch)



alternatives

hemp

- Made from cannabis sativa
– sips water, few pesticides
- Strong, great texture
- U.S. agricultural production
just starting since latest
Farm Bill



alternatives

modal lyocell Tencel

- All are types of rayon
- Made from cellulose (beech, eucalyptus, or bamboo)
- Manufacturing uses closed-loop systems (no dumping chemicals into rivers)

alternatives



recycled polyester

- Petroleum product
- Reuses polyester that might otherwise wind up in the environment
- Often sold as jersey or satin



alternatives

natural fiber blends

- Combines cotton with linen, hemp, silk, or bamboo
- Reduces footprint of cotton
- Look for chambrays, solids, and prints



alternatives

better cotton

American Made solids

Japanese cotton

Cotton made in environmentally responsible factories (Hoffman Indah batiks, You+Me)

Organic cotton (Birch, Cloud9, Amy Butler Organic Soul, etc.)

Ethical treatment of workers

Low impact dyes

Closed-loop manufacturing

batting

bamboo

natural blends

wool

recycled polyester