

# Eco-Benefits of Natural Alpaca Fiber

- Alpaca is produced primarily in Peru, but local production throughout the U.S. is growing and more and more alpaca products are being produced domestically. Purchasing local products reduces environmental impacts from transportation and packaging.
- Because alpaca is naturally odor resistant and somewhat stain resistant, it does not require frequent washing. It is also wrinkle resistant, so very little ironing is required.
- Untreated alpaca fiber is completely biodegradable. Fabric additions, such as dyes, chemical treatments, and man-made fibers and trims can hinder biodegradability. Alpaca fiber, on its own, is completely compostable and will break down in the environment, leaving no trace of harmful chemicals.
- The use of alpaca fiber in blankets, sweaters, and other garments allows users to use less energy to heat their homes in the winter, decreasing their carbon footprint.
- Hides/pelts that are used in the production of alpaca fur hats and some stuffed animal toys are ethically sourced. Pelts are gathered from animals that have perished due to harsh climatic conditions. It's vital to use 100% of the animal once it has passed in order to honor its life and contribution to the environment.
- Other livestock, including goats and sheep have hooves which can cause land degradation. Alpaca, on the other hand, have padded feet that are gentle and do not harm the earth.
- When alpaca graze, they do not damage or destroy root systems, so land is left undamaged and plants continue to grow after an alpaca has browsed on them.
- Compared to other livestock, alpaca require less water and food. Alpaca are very efficient eaters and generate less manure per volume of food consumed than many other livestock.
- Alpaca fiber does not contain lanolin or grease; therefore, it is easy to wash without harsh detergents or chemicals. Chemical baths are not required to remove it.
- Alpaca manure can easily be used as fertilizer. Repurposing the waste as fertilizer for flower and vegetable gardens effectively reintroduces beneficial nutrients into the environment.
- Harvard Alpaca Ranch utilizes solar energy for its power, both through solar panels on the roof of the dwelling as well purchased solar generated power for additional power needs.

