

HARTMANN & FORBES

SUSTAINABILITY AND ECO-WELLNESS GLOSSARY

This glossary illuminates the language of our craft, revealing the care and intention behind every material, every choice, and every design we create.

ARTISANAL CRAFTSMANSHIP

A practice rooted in tradition, where skilled hands shape each piece with care and intention. This approach preserves cultural knowledge while creating work that carries a unique sense of character and authentic individuality.

BIODEGRADABLE

Capable of breaking down into natural elements, leaving no persistent waste behind.

BIODIVERSITY

Supporting a wide variety of plant and animal life by protecting natural habitats and choosing farming and harvesting methods that do not deplete ecosystems.

CARBON FOOTPRINT

The total greenhouse gas emissions associated with producing, transporting, and using a product.

CIRCULAR DESIGN

A design philosophy that considers the full lifecycle of a product, prioritizing longevity, repairability, and the ability to return materials safely to the earth or be reintroduced into the production cycle.

ECO-WELLNESS

The practice of creating environments that nurture well-being through the thoughtful use of natural materials, healthy indoor air quality, and connection to nature.

EQUITABLY SOURCED

Materials acquired through practices that support the well-being and livelihoods of farming communities.

FERTILIZER FREE

Fibers grown without the use of synthetic fertilizers. Instead, natural soil fertility sustains healthy growth, promoting balanced ecosystems and reducing environmental impact.

FSC® – FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL CERTIFICATION

A certification ensuring wood and forest-derived materials are sourced from responsibly managed forests. FSC® standards protect ecosystems, support communities, and promote long-term forest health.

HARTMANN & FORBES

SUSTAINABILITY AND ECO-WELLNESS GLOSSARY

GREENGUARD GOLD CERTIFICATION

A certification that verifies products meet stringent standards for low chemical emissions, contributing to healthier indoor air quality. GREENGUARD Gold is designed for use in sensitive environments such as homes, schools, and healthcare spaces, supporting interiors that prioritize human well-being.

HANDCRAFTED

Made by hand using traditional techniques passed down through skilled artisans. This approach reduces reliance on energy-intensive industrial processes while preserving cultural knowledge and material integrity.

HARVESTED BY HAND

Fibers carefully gathered by hand using traditional methods. This low-impact approach reduces energy use, minimizes disruption to the land, and preserves the integrity of both material and environment.

LEED® – LEADERSHIP IN ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN

A globally recognized certification system for sustainable building design and construction. LEED evaluates factors such as energy efficiency, indoor environmental quality, material selection, and resource use. Products that support LEED standards contribute to healthier interiors and more environmentally responsible spaces.

LOW-VOC (VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS)

Materials or finishes with reduced chemical emissions, designed to support healthier indoor air quality.

MASTERS OF LINEN®

A certification that guarantees linen is made entirely in Europe, from the cultivation of flax to the spinning and weaving of the fiber. This designation reflects a commitment to quality, traceability, and the preservation of regional craftsmanship.

NATURALLY IRRIGATED

Fibers cultivated without artificial irrigation, relying solely on rainfall and naturally occurring water sources. This approach conserves water, supports local ecosystems, and honors the rhythms of the environment.

OEKO-TEX® STANDARD 100 CERTIFICATION

A globally recognized certification that ensures textiles are tested for harmful substances. Products meeting this standard are verified to be safe for human health, supporting cleaner indoor environments and greater peace of mind.

HARTMANN & FORBES

SUSTAINABILITY AND ECO-WELLNESS GLOSSARY

ORGANIC

Refers to materials cultivated without synthetic pesticides, herbicides, or genetically modified seeds. Organic farming supports soil health, biodiversity, and cleaner waterways.

PFAS (PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES)

Often called “forever chemicals,” PFAs are synthetic compounds found in many textiles, coatings, and treatments that resist water and stains but persist in the environment and may be harmful to health.

PESTICIDE FREE

Cultivation practices that avoid the use of synthetic chemical pesticides. By working in harmony with nature, this approach helps protect biodiversity, soil health, and surrounding ecosystems.

RAPIDLY RENEWABLE

Natural materials such as grasses, reeds, and bamboo replenish much faster than traditional hardwoods or fossil-fuel-based synthetics, generally within 10 years or less. These fibers grow abundantly and can be harvested repeatedly without depleting the resource.

REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

An approach that restores soil, increases biodiversity, and captures carbon while producing crops.

RENEWAL

The ongoing cycle of regeneration found in nature and embraced in our designs. We honor materials that renew themselves season after season, and continually seek ways to reduce waste and restore balance to our ecosystems.

RESPONSIBLE SOURCING

With care and intention, we source materials and collaborate with partners who share our respect for the earth and its people, ensuring that every step from harvest to delivery sustains both nature and community.

SANCTUARY, BY NATURE

“Sanctuary, by nature” reflects our belief that nature is not just an inspiration but a restorative force, a quiet refuge in a fast-moving world. It speaks to the transformative power of design rooted in the organic, the handwoven, and the intentionally imperfect. Here, nature itself is reimaged into interiors that calm the senses, restore balance, and honor the earth. More than a motto, it is our guiding principle: to create spaces that feel like sanctuary by their very nature.

HARTMANN & FORBES

SUSTAINABILITY AND ECO-WELLNESS GLOSSARY

SEASONAL HARVEST

Timing harvests to the plant's natural growth cycles to protect ecosystems and maintain quality.

STEWARDSHIP

The mindful and responsible care of the earth, its resources, and its people.

SUSTAINABLY HARVESTED

Fibers are gathered through practices that balance resource use with the health and regeneration of the ecosystem. Sustainable harvesting ensures that materials are removed at a rate that matches or exceeds the resource's natural ability to replenish, allowing for continued use well into the future.

UPCYCLING

Repurposing materials that might otherwise become waste into something valuable, reducing the need for virgin resources.