

Nano-Silver Technology Statement of Intent

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Selected Kathmandu textile products use Nano-silver technology as a way of inhibiting the bacterial growth that causes body odour.

Silver has the natural ability to inhibit the growth and reproduction of bacteria, giving long-lasting freshness protection.

Use of silver as an anti-bacterial remedy has been around for centuries; however there have recently been some concerns about the safety of silver nanotechnology in consumer products. Questions remain unanswered about possible:

- Release of nanoparticles in the environment through washing of textile articles;
- Health risks in humans;
- Bacterial resistance development (i.e. resistance to antibiotics and other antimicrobials).

At this stage there are no conclusions about the risks of using Nano-silver technology in consumer goods, and research is currently underway, as required by several governing bodies, and of course from the consumer themselves.

The Kathmandu product team is aware of the debate surrounding use of Nano-silver technology in their travel and outdoor clothing ranges. Until a decision has been reached on its use in consumer goods by the EPA, or guidelines based on evidence have been published by reputable environmental group or other, the following internal policy will be followed:

- Only approved Nano-silver treated textile suppliers should be used (e.g. Polygiene® treatment is Bluesign® approved, and is on the Oeko-tek list of approved products for textiles)
- The product team will be kept up to date with research and development of Nano-silver technology by the Materials team.

If there is any proven research that shows Nano-silver used in Consumer Goods provides a health or environment risk, then Kathmandu will reconsider its position regarding the use of Nano-silver technology in its clothing and textile ranges.