



NEWS RELEASE

The Microfibre Consortium and ZDHC Foundation unite to combat microfibre release

London/ Amsterdam, October 2023 - The Microfibre Consortium (TMC) and ZDHC Roadmap to Zero Programme (ZDHC) have joined forces to release a snapshot guidance that sets out to help tackle microfibre loss in the textile industry.

Microfibres, tiny particles which are lost during the textile lifecycle, have been identified as an environmental threat. Microfibres can be of cellulosic, man-made cellulosic or synthetic origin. TMC and ZDHC have co-developed guidance aimed at empowering supply chains, brands, and retailers to take effective measures against all microfibre pollution.

"Microfibre emissions are a persistent pollutant, and a global threat to both nature and people. But solutions exist. TMC and ZDHC are taking the lead in outlining concrete, no-regrets steps that brands and suppliers can follow today to mitigate fibre fragmentation and emissions during production. WWF urges the apparel and textile industry to follow this clear guidance, because we need immediate, coordinated action to tackle this enormous challenge to our planet's health."

Payal Luthra, Global Apparel and Textiles Lead, WWF

Key features of the action plan outlined in the document include:

- **Communication and build awareness**, such as sharing the guidance
- **Reduced formation**, such as request/research to reduce process times
- **Reduced emissions in effluent**, such as making sure TSS is reviewed and meets ZDHC foundational wastewater requirements

"Microfibre pollution has a proven environmental impact on water systems and ecosystems. The actions described in the guidance are all quick wins that the textile industry can implement now, there is no need to wait to take action in reducing the environmental impact of microfibres in your supply chain" says Janne Koopmans, Head of Collaboration with ZDHC.



Dr Kelly Sheridan, Research Director of The Microfibre Consortium, adds, "Mitigating microfibre pollution will only be possible through concerted collective action, using a portfolio of approaches. The actions we have outlined can be adopted by the supply chain today, which will have an immediate impact on protecting our environment and taking responsibility as an industry."

The full guidance can be found on The Microfibre Consortium [website](#) and on ZDHC's website.

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NOTE TO EDITORS

About The Microfibre Consortium

The Microfibre Consortium (TMC) is a research-led sustainable textiles NGO, working to convene the global textiles sector through [The Microfibre 2030 Commitment and Roadmap](#). It is the first and only organisation whole-heartedly focused on this topic and works on behalf of its signatories which comprises of brands and retailers, researchers and affiliated organisations. TMC's signatory base represents the UK, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, amongst others. Its global remit ensures that the clothing industry delivering to a wide and diverse consumer base, can be consistent with its implementation of mitigation measures relating to unintentional fibre fragmentation and microfibre pollution (both synthetic and natural) through actions such as:

- developing root cause understanding and solutions
- driving an aligned commitment
- delivering sustained action and measurable impact.

Its work is managed by a dedicated UK based team that is led by founding director Sophie Mather.

The full list of TMC signatories to the Microfibre 2030 Commitment are listed at <https://www.microfibreconsortium.com/signatories> .