

Greenpeace Finds Hazardous Substances on Outdoor Wear: Call for a Ban on PFCs

Recently, Greenpeace Germany, environmental organization, has made claims to have found a number of toxins in outdoor clothing. Most of the brands are top outdoor clothing companies such as the North Face, Patagonia, Marmot, Vaude, Adidas, and Jack Wolfskin.

The image of embracing "nature" that the companies portray was put into doubt through Greenpeace's findings. Through tests performed by two independent laboratories, Greenpeace Germany have found traces of PFCs (perfluorinated chemicals) and PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid) in all 14 rain jackets and rain trousers tested. They have also made claims to have found high concentrations of fluorotelomer alcohols in both the Marmot and Vaude jackets.

Even though PFCs is harmful to the environment and health, most brand name manufacturers still use PFCs which plays a major role in stain and water resistant clothing. Greenpeace is calling for a ban of their usage and suggests the use of safer alternatives. There is said to be weatherproof alternatives such as polyester and polyurethane membranes.

The Greenpeace Germany launched its international Detox campaign in 2011 calling on textile manufacturers to replace hazardous chemicals used in production with safe alternatives, and on governments to step up regulation.

Since the Detox campaign by Greenpeace, many retailers and manufacturers including Marks & Spencer, Jack Wolfskin and H&M (Hennes & Mauritz) have pledged to eliminate the hazardous chemicals including PFCs and PFOA from their products.

Link

Greenpeace News, October 29, 2012

<http://www.greenpeace.org/international/en/news/Blogs/makingwaves/the-cost-to-our-water-for-some-protection-fro/blog/42788/>

Greenpeace Report, October 29, 2012

http://www.greenpeace.de/fileadmin/gpd/user_upload/themen/chemie/gp_outdoor_report_2012_engl_fol_fin_neu_02_es.pdf