

Animal Welfare Policy

February 2018

Our Policy

Visit Bath are committed to protecting the welfare of animals. The Animal Welfare Policy we have implemented applies to all products sold through any of Visit Bath websites and to any event organised by Visit Bath that host suppliers or market traders.

Visit Bath Suppliers and stallholders must not use the following animal derived materials in the products they wish to sell through our events or online retail channels:

- Not use fur, including rabbit hair (angora) or Mongolian lambs' fur.
- Not use any part of vulnerable, endangered, exotic or wild-caught species in their products.
- Not use feather/down, bone, horn, shell and teeth in own-label products.
- In addition, they must: Only source certain types of leather, wool, cashmere, mohair and other animal hair from suppliers with good animal husbandry.

Health, Beauty and Cosmetics products:

- Any stallholder or supplier selling health, beauty or cosmetic products must ensure that the products are not tested on animals.

Visit Bath firmly believes it is not acceptable for animals to suffer in the name of fashion or cosmetics. No animals should be slaughtered specifically to produce products sold through any of Visit Bath websites or at any Visit Bath events. All animal materials used must be by-products of the meat industry.

Visit Bath requires animal material suppliers to adopt industry best practice rearing, transportation and slaughter standards, based on the internationally recognised Five Freedoms which recommend animals should be afforded:

- 1. freedom from hunger and thirst;**
- 2. freedom from discomfort;**
- 3. freedom from pain, injury and disease;**
- 4. freedom to express normal behaviour;**
- 5. freedom from fear and distress.**

Animal products and synthetic materials made to look like animal products must be clearly labelled as faux on the product description and care label to avoid confusion.

All own-label suppliers, brands and marketplace sellers are required to comply with the points raised in this policy, unless stated otherwise.

THE FOLLOWING ANIMAL MATERIALS MUST NOT BE USED IN PRODUCTS SOLD THROUGH ANY OF VISIT BATH WEBSITES OR AT VISIT BATH EVENTS:

- **VULNERABLE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES**
- **FUR**
- **ANGORA & OTHER RABBIT HAIR**

THE FOLLOWING ANIMAL MATERIALS CAN BE USED IN PRODUCTS SOLD THROUGH ANY OF VISIT BATH WEBSITES OR VISIT BATH EVENTS, WITH SOME EXCEPTIONS:

- **LEATHER & SKIN**
 - Only cow, buffalo, sheep, goat or pig leather or skin, sourced as a by-product of the meat industry and from producers with good animal husbandry can be used in products sold through any of Visit Bath websites or Visit Bath events.
 - Leather or skin must not be obtained from aborted animals i.e. slink and karakul, whilst the animal is still alive or from calves or lambs.
 - Leather or skin must not be obtained from animals kept in confinement systems i.e. in veal or sow crates.
 - Leather or skin must not be obtained from wild-caught animals, exotic animals or vulnerable and endangered species.

Visit Bath encourages all suppliers and stallholders are members of the Leather Working Group and promotes leather and skins sourced from tanneries which have been awarded with Gold, Silver or Bronze certification.

- **WOOL**
 - Sheep and lamb wool must be sourced from producers with good animal husbandry.
 - Merino wool must not be sourced from farmers who practice mulesing.

Visit Bath encourages all suppliers to source wool from Responsible Wool Standard (RWS) certified farmers.

CASHMERE & MOHAIR

- Cashmere and mohair must be sourced from producers with good animal husbandry
- Hair must not be harvested by live plucking.

Visit Bath encourages suppliers to consider using recycled cashmere.

OTHER ANIMAL HAIR

- Only cow, buffalo, yak, horse, goat, pig and alpaca hair from producers with good animal husbandry can be used in products sold through any of Visit Bath websites.

- Hair must not be obtained from vulnerable or endangered species.
- Hair must not be harvested by live plucking.
- Synthetic alternatives must be clearly labelled as synthetic.

FEATHERS & DOWN

Visit Bath encourages brands to use synthetic alternatives to feathers and down in their products. Only products from brands that can provide Responsible Down Standard (RDS) and Traceable Down Standard (TDS) certified down, can be sold through Visit Bath and Visit Bath events

GUIDE TO IDENTIFYING FAUX FUR FROM REAL FUR

Action	FAUX <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FUR <input type="checkbox"/>
Examine Backing	Uniform knitted or mesh backing, one layer of lining	Soft suede like leather base often two layers of lining
Pierce base with a pin	Easy to push a pin through the base	Difficult to push a pin through the base
Examine hair	Uniform in colour and length, synthetic feeling fibres	Varying length soft tapered hair that rolls easily between fingers

IMPORTED GOODS

Visit Bath works to ensure that all online retail suppliers and stallholders at Visit Bath events are businesses based locally or from the South West Region. We actively engage with local craft makers and businesses producing their own products. This drive supports our core brand value of integrity – our customers expect high standards and trust us to work ethically.

At times products are available to purchase at Visit Bath events that are handmade abroad and imported from other countries. To maintain and ensure highest standards we have adopted several elements of international codes as well as the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) Base

Suppliers must apply these principles at all times, and on request must be able to demonstrate that they are doing so. Visit Bath reserves the right to cancel any contract or cancel any participation in their events with immediate effect if it is deemed that suppliers and stallholders do not meet the criteria stated above.