



## THE AMERICAN DOWN & FEATHER COUNCIL

The American Down & Feather Council (ADFC), a section of the Home Fashion Products Association, is a voluntary association of manufacturers of natural fill bedding products, as well as dealers, buyers, sellers and processors of feathers and down for use in home fashion products. The goal of the ADFC is to further the common interests of the down and feather products industry and to maintain and improve product quality.

The objective of the ADFC Labeling Compliance Program is to ensure all natural fill bedding products sold in the U.S. are labeled correctly and that the quality of the products meets or exceeds the claims made on the label or packaging.

The ADFC's Seal of Approval signifies that the manufacturer is a member of ADFC and participates in its Labeling Compliance Program.

## THE HOME FASHION PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION

Established in 1968, The Home Fashion Products Association (HFPA) is the premier association for companies involved in the home fashion products industry. Committed to industry excellence, members primarily include companies that manufacture and market curtains, draperies, bed and bath fashions, table linens and allied products, as well as companies that manufacture, market and convert fabrics, linings, trimmings and/or other component materials for curtains, draperies, bedspreads, table linens and allied products. The organization is continually expanding its reach, as evidenced by the recent addition of the American Down and Feather Council to the membership roster.

The HFPA fosters the common interests of the home fashion products industry and promotes a spirit of cooperation. It also works to establish best practices and increase customer satisfaction, both within the industry and for the public in general. Additionally, the HFPA and its members work with the industry to establish uniform market dates for the Fall and Spring Market and shows.



## ABOUT DOWN AND FEATHER PRODUCTS

Natural fill products are breathable, durable, resilient, and provide excellent insulation without a lot of weight. Down and feathers trap air while allowing moisture to escape, allowing products such as comforters to adjust to the amount of heat released by the body. Because they allow air to circulate and offer a wide comfort range, down and feather comforters can be enjoyed winter and summer.

Down and feather fill is also ideal for pillows because it can provide a range of support options, from soft to firm, while adjusting to body movements. The pillow molds itself to the sleeper's head and neck cradling them in comfort and support.

Natural fill bedding is resilient and lasts for years. Products containing down are usually machine washable, although it is recommended that consumers read the affixed care labels. A down and feather bedding product is an investment that pays off in longevity, comfort and ease of care.

## LABELING REQUIREMENTS

**Down Products:** A product that is labeled "Down" is required to contain a minimum of 75% down cluster. The percentage of down must be listed on the label.

**Down and Feather Blend Products:** In products that contain both down and feathers the minimum down content must be listed. There is no tolerance allowed, products labeled "50% Down/50% Feathers" must contain a minimum of 50% down cluster. There is no down fiber allowance.

**Waterfowl Products:** Only feathers and down from ducks and geese may be labeled waterfowl.

**Species:** Products may be labeled by species only if 90% or more of the plumage is of that species.

**Hypoallergenic Claims:** The industry standard for hypoallergenic claims is an oxygen number of 4.8 or less and a turbidity level of 500mm or higher.



## ADFC LABELING COMPLIANCE PROGRAM

ADFC established the Labeling Compliance Program to ensure that all natural fill bedding products sold in the U.S. are labeled correctly and that the quality of the products meets or exceeds the claims made on the label or packaging. This program will give customers and retailers of down and feather filled home furnishing products confidence in the quality of the products and the accuracy of their claims and representations. Companies that are in compliance with the program may display the ADFC Seal of Approval on their products.

The American Down & Feather Council's Seal of Approval signifies that down products meet or exceed industry standards and are labeled accurately.

All sampling, classification and testing of the filling material must be done in accordance with International Down and Feather Bureau (IDFB) standards and be performed by an IDFB certified testing laboratory.

Areas of compliance include:

- Down cluster
- Species identification
- Filling power
- Oxygen number
- Turbidity
- Filling weight
- Thread count

The ADFC uses a “weighted point system” and awards an overall score that determines whether a product fails and to what degree. The lower the score the better. Tolerances applied to this system are consistent with industry standards.



## AREAS OF COMPLIANCE AND TERMS

- Down:** The soft undercoating of waterfowl, which is comprised of individual down fibers that are connected to one another at a central point.
- Nestling Down:** Underdeveloped down made up of soft fluffy barbs radiating from a sheath. Nestling down does not have quills.
- Plumule:** Plumage consisting of soft quills and barbs.
- Down Cluster:** A group of components including down, nestling down and plumules.
- Species Identification:** Feathers are tested to determine bird species.
- Fill Power:** Measures loft or insulation ability of down products in cubic inches per ounce. The higher the number, the more fill power there is.
- Oxygen Number:** Indicates product cleanliness. Down and feathers are soaked and agitated in a solution of pure water, which is then measured for organic material. The lower the number the better, the cleanest samples measure 1.6-3.2, the highest number allowed is 10.
- Turbidity:** Helps determine if dust or dirt (organic and inorganic) is present in the down and feather. A sample of down or feathers is soaked and agitated in pure water, the water is then measured for clarity. U.S. and European standards require a result of at least 300 mm. Very clean samples register at 550 mm or higher.
- Filling Weight:** The net filling weight of the down and feathers is determined.
- Thread Count:** Number of threads per square inch of fabric are measured at least five times, the results are averaged together. Two-ply yarns are counted as one thread and may not be used to double thread count. Generally, the higher the thread count is, the more down proof the fabric.