

The skin, wool, silk, fur  
and lives of animals are  
not ours to take



Feel good in  
your own skin



Look good and live without cruelty

- Some materials taken from animals are co-products of the meat industry and an integral part of farming animals for food, e.g. wool.
- Others are taken from animals specifically farmed for that purpose, e.g. fur.
- All are taken from animals who are used and killed for human convenience.

With so many animal-free materials available, it is easier than ever to make the compassionate choice not to use animals.

Find out where to buy animal-free footwear and clothing:  
[www.vegansociety.com/shoes](http://www.vegansociety.com/shoes)



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# Leather

The primary sources of skin for the leather industry are the 3.44 billion cows, sheep and goats who are farmed across the globe each year. Rather than being a by-product, their skins are an extremely valuable raw material and a major

contributing factor to the profitability of the meat industry. The aggregate value of world leather production is close to £28 billion, which is higher than that of meat production.

Farmed animals are forced to lead short, manipulated lives where their individual needs and preferences are ignored. Killing and unjustifiable harm are a constant part of farming animals and purchasing leather goods funds their exploitation, making it a more profitable business.



"Skin wool" for knitwear is from slaughtered sheep.



Leather makes the meat industry more profitable.



Animals killed for fur are often caught in traps.



Making silk kills worms before they become moths.

# Wool

Wool is taken from sheep and lambs whose 'purpose' is to be killed for meat. Sheep are not kept just for their wool until they die of old age.

The sheep's thick fleece makes them susceptible to heat stress

when their body temperature rises, such as when being driven. Once shorn, they can easily become cold or heat stressed due to weather conditions.

Handling, dipping and shearing are stressful for the sheep. It is not uncommon for sheep to sustain cuts to their skin while being sheared. Some wool, referred to as "skin wool", is taken from slaughtered sheep.

The fur industry kills more than 50 million animals a year, 85% of whom are farmed in captivity while 15% are wild animals who have been trapped or hunted. Farmed animals are kept confined in barren cages, often in open sided sheds which leave them exposed to the elements. Farmed animals suffer both acute and chronic stress, showing stereotypical behaviour (such as rocking) and self-mutilating in their frustration. Mink, foxes, racoon dogs and chinchillas are all farmed for their fur.

The wild animals killed for fur are often caught in traps, which cause great pain and can leave them trapped for days. Some animals resort to gnawing at their own ensnared limbs in a desperate attempt to escape. Wild animals killed for their fur include racoons, beavers and bobcats.

# Silk

Silk is an insect secretion made by silkworms: the caterpillars of several species of moth. In commercial silk production, the vast majority of silk is taken from domesticated caterpillars farmed in controlled conditions. First, the silkworms are produced: the female moth lays 300 to 500 eggs at a time and dies soon after laying her eggs.

When the silkworms are ready to transform into moths, they spin a cocoon around themselves, intended for protection. The cocoon is made from silk fibre secreted as a continuous thread from a

gland in the silkworm's head.

The pupae are killed before they can emerge from the cocoon, by being dried in a hot air chamber or stifled in a steam chamber, to preserve the silk thread.

The amount of useable silk from each cocoon is so small, it takes hundreds of lives to produce just one silk scarf or tie.