



Background text

Sympatex Technologies GmbH:

The Sympatex membrane: maximum performance, minimum cost to the environment

As one of the world's leading suppliers, Sympatex Technologies has been a byword for high-tech functional systems in clothing, footwear accessories and workwear for decades.

Its philosophy 'If nature had a choice' reflects the company's perfect symbiosis of performance and ecology. Eco-friendliness as a self-image. In addition to its standard functions (optimal breathability, 100% waterproofness, 100% windproofness), the Sympatex membrane is also 100% recyclable and Oeko-Tex Standard 100- and bluesign®-certified.

Performance

At Sympatex, superior quality and well-thought-out technology are essential building blocks for optimal performance and comfort. With this in mind, Sympatex developed a non-porous membrane consisting of billions of hydrophilic molecules which uses a physiochemical process to rapidly transport moisture from the inside to the outside. It ensures that the body always remains dry – even in extreme situations. Not only that, the membrane also provides effective protection against rain.

Unlike standard microporous structures, the Sympatex membrane retains maximum functionality even after activity in continuous rain or washing as there are no pores that can become blocked.

Ecology

Many companies still use PTFE (polytetrafluoroethylene) in the production of their water-repellent functional textiles. This creates fluorine compounds that are not biodegradable. The Sympatex membrane is completely PTFE free. The Sympatex production method uses a material made of polyether and polyester, better known from the production of PET water

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bottles. This compound consists of hydrogen, oxygen and carbon and is thus 100% recyclable and poses no threat to health.

Because of this high level of environmental compatibility, the Sympatex membrane has been awarded Oeko-Tex Standard 100 certification. This involves extremely stringent testing for possible contaminants. The certification guarantees that the membrane is in no way harmful to health. And as a certified bluesign® partner, Sympatex fulfils strict guidelines for environmental protection, health and safety and operates a high-standard and environmentally sound production chain.

Sympatex's innovative competence has already been acknowledged with a number of ispo awards in the categories of ski clothing and footwear. Numerous manufacturers have recognised the benefits of the environmentally friendly and, at the same time, highly efficient Sympatex membrane system. Big-name brands from the sport, leisure, contract and workwear segments now use the membrane, including Zimtstern, Billabong, Ziener Clothing and Vökl.

More information is available at www.sympatex.com.

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Fact sheet: the Sympatex membrane

- Compact hydrophilic (water-loving molecules) membrane
- Polyester and polyether copolymer (oxygen-carbon-hydrogen) which poses no risk to health
- 100% waterproof
- 100% windproof
- Optimal breathability
- The world's thinnest membrane (5 micrometres thick)
- Up to 300% stretch (wearer comfort)
- 100% recyclable, without toxic residues
- PTFE-free
- The first water-repellent coating free of toxic fluorocarbons
- Oeko-Tex Standard 100-certified
- bluesign®-certified



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