

SPORTSWEAR MADE FROM PLASTIC OCEAN WASTE

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Ever heard of sportswear which is a product of the plastic waste obtained from the oceans. Many would wonder how the plastic buried deep down in the water could be transformed into a functional good that too a clothing material. You would be amazed to know that such initiatives have been taken by renowned brands and have successfully launched their "Ocean Plastic Sportswear" collections. In addition to the account of these brands let us also try to understand the general processes behind this transformation.

The brands which gained attention for putting out the products made of ocean plastic waste include the popular ones like Adidas and Puma.

In 2015, Adidas, the German manufacturer of athletic shoes and sporting goods partnered with the Parley for the Oceans to convert ocean waste into shoes. They made use of recycled plastic bottles as an alternative to virgin polyester. Adidas also aims to replace all virgin polyester with recycled polyester by 2024. This sustainable footwear made a sale of more than one million, as stated in 2018 by the brand itself. The sneakers stood against the performance and comfort standards as well. Moreover, it was informed that an average of 11 plastic bottles are used per pair. The recycled plastic is incorporated into the shoe's laces, heel webbing, heel lining, sock liner covers, and even in jerseys. The production process involves crushing, washing, and dehydrating the plastic waste into small plastic flakes which are heated, dried, cooled, and then cut into small resin pellets. These pellets are melted to create a filament, which is spun into a polyester yarn called 'ocean plastic'. This polyester uses less water and chemicals thus preventing pollution.

In a similar manner, the other prominent sportswear brand Puma created a collection of footwear and clothing made out of recycled plastic. It was done in collaboration with a UK-based waste management and recycling company, First Mile. In the process, Puma used more than 190,000 recovered plastic bottles to make yarns. This initiative was a part of Puma's wider sustainability plan to address environmental issues.

The recycled PET yarns from ocean plastics have gained ground in the past few years with the increasing demand for sustainable fabrics. Using environmentally-friendly recycling processes, PET yarn doesn't depend on petroleum and thus helps conserve natural resources and reduces the environmental burden. On account of its emergence as a sustainable alternative it was used by the sportswear brands to meet their goals towards a better planet. It is expected that it would soon be noticed by other industries and brands so that more sustainable products could reach the public.

Thus moving towards the end it is supposed that now each one of us may have gained some information on how sportswear is made from plastic waste. It is truly an inspiring initiative taken by known brands which have made significant contributions towards saving our planet.