Goals

Reduce Water in Denim Production: 30% by 2022

A&F Co. achieved and maintained its goal to reduce the amount of water used across our denim production by 30% since fiscal year 2020 utilizing Jeanologia Environmental Impact Measuring (EIM) software that calculates the difference in water consumption in traditional versus water saving methodologies.

Achieved 30% in 2021

Strategies
Supply Chain

Garment manufacturing uses a great amount of water, particularly the drying and washing processes. We work with our denim suppliers to implement new technologies, equipment and water-saving methodologies. In 2021, we conducted a survey to all denim washhouses against industry water best practices and provided them with guidance to identify water-saving opportunities.

Examples include using trigger guns, low-flow and shutoff valves to turn off hoses in washing areas when not in use and using e-flow technology to reduce chemical and water consumption in wash process.
Global Home Offices, Distribution Centers & Stores

A&F Co. works to increase water efficiency where possible in our direct operations. To limit water and energy use, home office teams combine wash loads across brands to sample home launder testing.

And our home office utilizes an automated irrigation system for landscaping to optimize water distribution. Our new and remodeled stores receive low-flow toilets and faucets.

Other Key Focus Areas

Chemicals

A&F Co. requires its suppliers to properly use, store and dispose of chemicals in the manufacturing process. Our Vendor Code of Conduct specifically requires suppliers to adhere to our Restricted Substance Policy and Restricted Substance List. View our Restricted Substance List.

Recycled water

Several of our vendor partners, including Crystal Group International Ltd., have increased the use of recycled water versus fresh water in their facilities.

Compliance with Local Laws

A&F Co. continues to help build the vendors’ capabilities in monitoring to reduce environmental impact to the greatest extent possible and comply with all relevant local laws and regulations including proper use and management of chemicals, hazardous and non-hazardous waste disposal, wastewater, water quality, energy use,
GHG emissions and recycling. In particular, the adoption of Higg FEM by our suppliers helped to develop robust environmental management system (EMS), and/or put a plan in place to document current permits, and/or records as required by local law. As part of our annual social audit, an A&F Co. designated third party will assess compliance with environmental permits, including compliance with wastewater discharge permits.

**Wastewater**

We require our denim washhouses to use the Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (ZDHC) guideline to ensure discharged wastewater is not polluting the environment. This includes 29 physical and chemical parameters (e.g., temperature, Chemical oxygen demand (COD), heavy metal, etc.) and 14 chemical groups on the ZDHC MRSL (Manufacturing Restricted Substances List). In 2021, A&F Co. wastewater test program covered all denim washhouses and garment dyehouses. Beginning in 2022, A&F Co. expanded the program to our key fabric mills. The purpose of testing is to ensure discharged wastewater from washhouses are not polluting the environment.

A&F Co. appointed a ZDHC approved laboratory to collect wastewater samples and conduct the test annually in all denim washhouses and garment dyehouses. Factories' level of conformance will be rated based on the test results. Factories need to submit corrective actions plan if any parameters are detected exceeding the limit. We will also work with suppliers at risk to identify improvement opportunities, particularly on their chemical management systems.

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**Measuring Our Progress**

**Water Reduction**

Our denim washhouses use Jeanologia’s Environmental Impact Monitoring (EIM) software to measure water consumption per denim. Jeanologia is the first tool specifically created for the garment industry to measure the impact of laundry and finishing processes.
Wastewater Compliance

In addition to the wastewater test program, we continue to build the vendors’ capabilities in monitoring to reduce environmental impact to the greatest extent possible and comply with all relevant local laws and regulations including proper use and management of chemicals, hazardous and non-hazardous waste disposal, wastewater, water quality, energy use, GHG emissions, and recycling. The adoption of Higg FEM in vendors helped to develop robust environmental management system (EMS), and/or a plan in place to document current permits, and/or records as required by local law.

As part of our annual social audit, an A&F designated third party will assess compliance with environmental permits including compliance with wastewater discharge permits.

In 2022, a total of 76 facilities completed wastewater testing according to the ZDHC guidelines. This includes 100% of our denim washhouses and garment dyehouses and 59% of fabric mills by production volume.