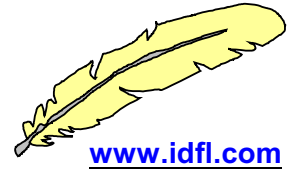




# IDFL NEWS



**International Down and Feather Laboratory and Institute**  
Serving retailers, consumers and manufacturers worldwide for 29 years.

Issue No. **54**

August 2007

## DOWN IS STILL THE WORLD'S BEST INSULATION

### Light and Warm

Gram for gram, down provides the best insulation for bedding, apparel and sleeping bags.

### Down is Still the Best Filling

People around the world choose down for bedding & apparel. Down is the first choice for everyone from European families to wilderness expedition staff. Down is also the insulation of choice for billions of migrating birds who spend time in both freezing wet Arctic conditions and warm tropical conditions.

### There is no "Synthetic Down"

No true synthetic down has ever been developed. (In fact, the term "synthetic down" is illegal in Europe.) The proper term for such synthetics is "down alternative."

### Down is Washable

Down and feathers are resilient and washable. After multiple washings, down retains and revives its lofting capability. Large down products are best cleaned by professionals.

### Flammability? Down is Low Risk

Down products pass flammability tests. Other materials (especially synthetics) require FR or other treatments to pass the same tests.

### Cleanliness: Is Down Safe?

Down and feathers are safe and clean. All countries in the world have minimum cleanliness/hygenic requirements. Down and feathers are usually washed and sterilized at 130°C (260°F) for 20-30 minutes. No harmful material can survive. Avian flu is **NOT** a danger for down and feather products.

### ANNOUNCEMENT

- McKelle Boyer has been named Sample Coordinator for IDFL China. McKelle is originally from Salt Lake City and has been living in China since February 2007.

### IDFL FACTS

- More than **2,000 clients**
- Samples from **52 countries**
- **110 employees** in Salt Lake
- Offices in **Europe and China**

IDFL has membership in

- **IDFB** (International)
- **IABFLO** (USA Regulations)
- **EDFA** (Europe)
- **ADFC** (USA)
- **CFDIA** (China)
- **ASTM** (Standards)
- **AATCC** (Textile Standards)

### USA LABEL COMPLIANCE

- The ADFC (American Down and Feather Council) will continue monitoring of label compliance in USA stores.
- The State of California will continue testing down products from store shelves during the next 6 months.

### High Thread Count Claims

IDFL will begin a major project to help retailers evaluate high threadcount claims on all textile products during the next few months. Questionable and deceptive threadcount claims have increased during the past couple of years.

### Sustainable, Renewable

Down and feathers are true natural, "green" products. Synthetics are manufactured from oil-based chemicals.

Down and feathers are by-products of the food industry. If down and feathers were not used for insulation they would end up in landfills.

### Down & Allergens

Allergies to down are, in fact, very rare. Because some consumers are afraid to wash down products – dust builds on the surface of the fabric. Consumers then begin reacting to the dust.

Down is very washable, so surface dust can be minimized by regular cleaning.

Also, products are covered in downproof fabrics which prevent dust mites from invading the interior of down pillows. A New Zealand study showed that down products are better at preventing dust mite infestations than synthetic pillows.

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