

*feel natural*

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# OUR STORY OF NATURAL HAIR

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*the amazing benefits  
of using animal hair*

**ENKEV**

*natural fibres*



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# HORSE HAIR

*the production of curled horse hair sheets for mattresses*

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Nature has always provided us with beautiful resources. Historically very little got wasted. Meat was used for food. Leather, bones and also hair has been a source for making tools and clothing. In modern society these materials, called animal 'by-product', from the food industry are still used as raw materials for other industries such as the shoe, garment, chemical and pharmaceutical industry.

No animals are actually killed for the hair itself. It is a resource that would get wasted if no useful application could be found. Hair coming from horses is an by-product that is mainly used by the brush industry. A small part finds its way into the mattress or upholstery market.

## **HOW WE DO IT:**

The horse tails and manes are collected from many South American, Asian and European sources. The hair is then thoroughly rinsed in hot water and soap, dried and carefully selected by length and colour for different applications.

The hair is then shipped to Enkev under supervision of the veterinary services. Only European approved entities are allowed to export to Europe.

When the material arrives at Enkev's factory they receive a second washing in hot water and soap. After careful drying by centrifuge the hair is ready for the curling process. This process starts with a mixing and blending machine that gently combs the hair that has become compressed in the bales.

In a spinning machine we force the fibres into a spiral form. The hair has a tendency to bounce back to it's original form, but we lock them in a spiral formed rope.

In the next step the rope receives a pressurized steam treatment. The hair is heated above 100 degrees Celsius. This has several benefits:

- The shape of the (million's of) fibres will change from straight into spiral formed, curly and therefore very resilient hair.
- The hair becomes 100% sterilised

## ENKEV PRODUCES HIGHLY SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS OUT OF THIS AMAZING NATURAL RESOURCE

### *Hand teased hair*

Some mattress manufacturers unwind the fibres and hand tease the fibres into an even layer of hair that is placed relatively close to the surface of a mattress or topper. This layer is then covered by wool, cotton or a blend. The hair brings a natural springiness and softness to the mattress.

This hand teased layer offers superior humidity absorption and has a very open and ventilating structure. The argument to use this type of clean and sterilized material in a mattress is based on the enhanced breathability and micro climate that these sheets made out of millions of clean and comfortable micro springs, bring along.

### *Needle punched hair*

To get to a needle punched sheet or roll the strings of curled hair are unwound to release the curly fibres. These fibres are then fed into a sheet layer where a thick lofty pack of fibres is made. This pack is bonded together by needle punching to form a regular and soft layer of curled horse hair.

These sheets are used in traditional high quality mattresses. The fibres are very good in absorbing humidity and the sheets have a very open and ventilating structure. The argument to use this type of clean and sterilized material in a mattress is based on the enhanced microclimate that these sheets bring along.

### *Rubberised hair*

To make a rubberised hair sheet, the strings are unwound to release the curly hairs again. The millions of little curly natural springs are layered into a sheet and sprayed on both sides with all natural latex to give structure and strength to the sheet. In the next part of this process we dry the latex, press the sheet into its final thickness and vulcanize the latex. This elaborate process guarantees a clean and sterilised product with an extremely long lasting resilience. The end product delivers a high level of comfort due to an excellent micro climate. The material breathes and ensures a healthy temperature and humidity.

No harmful chemicals or softeners are used, and the unique deep cleaning process that Enkev uses minimizes any potential allergic reactions.



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# NATURE'S FINEST

*the lovely features of natural fibres from animal hair*

Animal hair has amazing benefits; it is strong and silky. And there are so many more features worth mentioning:

- Hollow fibre: perfect for humidity regulation
- Curled fibre: millions of springs create comfort and support
- Steamed fibre: bounces back after compression;
- Sterilized fibre: clean material;
- Natural fibre: no harmful off-gassing chemicals;
- Sustainable fibre: from waste product to top-class material;
- Hair fibre: nature's finest

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.



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