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Hohenstein advances textile sustainability with microfiber analysis

BÖNNIGHEIM, GERMANY (Jan. 23, 2020) – Hohenstein has completed the development of its new method for analyzing microfiber shedding from textiles. Using dynamic image analysis, the method quantifies shedding behavior and reveals previously unattainable data with practical implications for material development throughout the supply chain.

The new method is the result of four years of research at Hohenstein, published in an article by lead researcher Jasmin Haap. The research team developed, refined and validated an analytical method that goes beyond current approaches of measuring the shedded mass to quantify fiber count, length, diameter and shape.

Further analysis can reveal the distribution of these attributes and even generate separate results for cellulosic fibers (e.g. cotton) and non-cellulosic fibers (e.g. polyester). This analysis is currently available exclusively through Hohenstein.

With this level of detail, researchers can now quantify in more detail which types of fiber and material constructions contribute most to microfiber release, leading to informed decisions in development of more sustainable textiles that shed less.

Synthetic microfibers are tiny pieces of plastic released into water during mechanical stress, particularly washing. Wastewater containing microfibers eventually flows through sewage into larger bodies of water. Along the way, synthetic microfibers attract harmful substances and pollutants from the environment, harming sea life and entering the food chains of larger fish and humans.

Dynamic image analysis of wastewater is non-destructive, allowing additional tests, such as filtration, to be performed for further analysis. Filtration, the most common method to date, involves filtering the wastewater from textile laundering, then weighing the remaining particles.

In November 2019, Hohenstein joined the Microfibre Consortium as a contributing research member.

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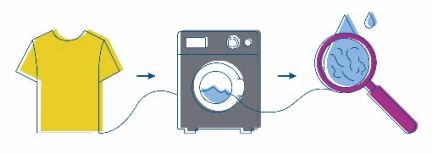

Microfibers are tiny pieces of plastics released in the water during mechanical stress, particularly washing. Wastewater eventually flows into sewage and larger bodies of water, remaining indefinitely or entering the food chain.

About Hohenstein

With over 1,000 employees in more than 40 branches, offices and laboratories worldwide, Hohenstein is an internationally oriented testing services provider and research partner in the textile industry. Hohenstein is a founding member and leading provider of the OEKO-TEX® portfolio of services and is certified by the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC ID #1058) as a third-party, independent laboratory for CPSIA compliance verification. You can find more information about Hohenstein and the company's microfiber testing services at www.Hohenstein.US/Microfibers