



SEAL

INTERNATIONAL

www.sealinternational.com



Welcome...



For over 50 years Seal International has been the leading name in the processing and trading of speciality fibres. Maintaining our position by combining tradition with technology and innovative production techniques to maintain the highest quality products.

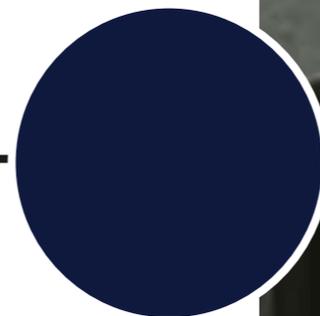
Andrew Seal, CEO

Our brand stands on three pillars of quality, reliability, and availability, ensuring where possible our products are fully traceable and sustainable, a key focus is that as a business we fully support the certification organisations.

Over the years we have become a truly global business with buying offices in China, South Africa, Texas, South America, and Turkey. We have developed a network of first-class sales agents and to give them our support and the proven reliability of a major textile group which we have now become, we are delighted to be able to launch the Seal International brand.

On behalf of the Seal family and its valued staff, we would like to thank all of our agents and customers for their support. We endeavour to provide a continually evolving level of service and range of quality tested and assured luxury fibre products.

This brochure tells a little bit about the newly branded Seal International but for the fuller picture take a look at our new website at www.sealinternational.com.



HERITAGE - WHERE IT ALL BEGAN...

Having left school at 16, Raymond Seal, went into the textile trade, working his way up through various companies before starting his own business in 1970. Travelling the world, especially the Far East / China & countries of Eastern Europe buying raw materials, mainly camelhair but also cashmere and mohair.

As the business grew it moved to Ladywell Mills in 1977 where his two sons Andrew (CEO) and Jeremy (MD) joined the business. The main area of expertise was selling mohair to East Germany (the mohair was subsequently sold on to Russia to make hats and scarves), payment took the form of camelhair and cashmere - barter trade in its truest form.

In 1995 Raymond retired and Andrew and Jeremy took over the running of the business, with the traditional fibre business being notoriously fickle due to changes in fashion, the company expanded into yarns to smooth out the troughs in the fibre trading cycle and subsequently acquired famous worsted and woollen weavers as well as dyeing and finishing facilities.

This was the foundation of the larger SIL Group, now one of the largest textile groups in Europe.

ABOUT

Continuing to build on the foundations their father Raymond laid in 1970, Andrew and Jeremy Seal have continued to grow the business into one of the most prominent names in world textiles. Respected around the world by customers who recognise the value of a reliable, consistent and dependable supplier for their fibre needs.



Quality

We have an enviable reputation for the purity and specification of the products we supply. Having our own in-house testing lab allows us to check, sample quicker than ever before maintaining only the highest quality fibres for our customers. Our years of buying from around the world have nurtured the strongest of links and relationships assuring the quality and integrity of our fibres.



Reliability

Our word and reputation underpin our business and mean so much to us. For decades we have strived to exceed expectations and deliver nothing less than an excellent service, and we never will. Whether it's a new customer or ones that have been with us for many years, each recognises the value of a solid, dependable and reliable supplier.



Availability

Our stocks of speciality fibre that we hold is unsurpassable by any in the world. With significant stocks across grades and fibre specification we have stocks available for immediate dispatch in cashmere, mohair, alpaca, angora, camel, silk, yak and a number of other smaller more specialist fibres. No-one will consistently and continually have the availability of stock... ready for immediate despatch.

EXPERTISE & SERVICES

Our global reputation for reliability and availability doesn't only come from being one of the world's largest stockholders of noble fibres. It also comes from our ability to work in partnership with customers to develop products and blends of fibre that meet their needs and expectations. Utilising the very latest in fibre technology our in-house lab and on-site processing units can provide quality assurance whilst being flexible and responsive to any order.



In-House Lab

We are unique in having access to our own on-site laboratory for testing. Avoiding costs and delays of using external suppliers and allowing us to provide an assurance of quality. Our laboratory has recently benefited from a significant investment in the most modern testing equipment, allowing us to test characteristics such as count, micron, quality, levelness or condition. We test samples from all our stocks to ensure consistency and quality.

Processing

Our cashmere combing division processes a number of natural fibres as well as cashmere. To avoid fibre contamination, separate rooms are used for machining white and other darker fibres and humidity is strictly controlled to maintain the highest quality product. Specialist processes include blending loose fibres to tops, blending slivers to create colours (using up to 7 gill boxes), making loose fibre into film and breaking a sliver into broken top.



Alpaca

The Alpaca is a South American camelid, vital to the continued survival of populations in the Andes. They are remarkable for their resistance to adverse environments, with pastures at 3500-4800 mts. One of the world's most luxurious fibres, it's soft to the touch, should be bright and should not feel dry, rather well nourished.

The downy coat produced by the Angora rabbit is characterised by its softness and slipperiness to handle, a result of the cell structure of the hair and the three mantle layers in the pelt. We work with suppliers with whom we have had relationships with for many years and who have excellent animal husbandry procedures in place.



Angora



Camelhair

With a very soft and robust skin, it is often used for saddles and footwear. Tufts of coarse dark hair, 40-120 mic and often 30cm long, are located on the humps, mane and on the chest. The finest undercoat is on the sides and the neck and this comes to the surface and falls naturally in April and May.

Cashmere fibre is fine in texture and is also strong, light and soft. In order for the fine fibre to be sold and processed further, it must be de-haired. This is a process that separates the coarse fibres from the fine. We acquire our cashmere from some of the finest herds by visiting and negotiating with local traders in China and Mongolia.



Cashmere



Mohair

Mohair is a lustrous fibre from the hair of the Angora goat. Mohair takes dye exceptionally well, is also warm and durable as well as being stretch, flame and crease-resistant. Often chosen for its great resilience and resistance to dirt and it is most commonly known for its use in suiting and knitwear.

The silkworm is the larva or caterpillar of bombyx mori (the silkworm of the mulberry tree). Each cocoon is made of threads of raw silk which are between 300 and 900 metres long. Silks absorbency makes it comfortable to wear in warm weather. Its low conductivity also keeps warm air close to the skin during cold weather.



Silk



Vicuna

As well as being the most elegant and noble of animals, the Vicuna is one of the rarest animals in South America – it is often referred to as, “Princess of the Andes”. The fibre is the finest of all-natural fibres – typically 11 to 12 mic. It is also prized for its rarity, warmth and softness.

The domestic Yak is an important animal for populations in the large Chinese / Tibetan highlands but is not well known and appreciated outside of this area. It serves as a beast of burden, for riding and for milk. The skin is used for leather goods and footwear, whilst the hair is used to make felt for the nomadic tents and the finest parts of clothing.



Yak

RESPONSIBILITIES

We have been guided by the values and responsibilities passed down the generations. This means dealing honestly not just with customers, suppliers, partners but our own people and community too, generating trust and peace of mind throughout our worldwide network.



Sustainability

We consider sustainability to be a key parameter for a strong business and we ensure traceability when sourcing our raw material using certified sustainable methods with our trusted partners throughout our supply chain.

We are fully certified to the Responsible Mohair Standard (RMS) and we are also 'Gold' members of the Sustainable Fibres Alliance (SFA) a global multi stakeholder initiative to encourage the adoption of responsible production practices that minimize environmental impact, safeguard herder livelihood and meet high animal welfare standards.



Environment

We have always been duty bound to reduce our negative environmental impact adopting good environmental practices and operate in a sustainable manner, thereby preserving the planet's natural resources and continual improvement of our environmental performance is a fundamental part of our future business strategy and operating processes. Throughout our mill and manufacturing processes we seek to minimise our impact controlling energy resources, selecting the cleanest technologies in our production processes and waste management to minimise our consumption of natural resources, where they are non-renewable.



Corporate & Social Responsibility

We take responsibility for creating wider benefits both within and around our business and endeavor to make our impact a positive one, which improves the lives of others and reduces the risk of harm to people and their environment. We are fully committed to adding value to the communities within which we work, fostering relationships through sourcing local labour, equipment and materials where possible.

We recognise that people are our most valuable asset ensuring that we carry out our operations in a manner that safeguards their health, welfare and safety of employees. Their performance is the key to the quality of service we provide and through investing in our recruitment, apprentice schemes, training and development of employees we will retain the best possible talent.

We continue to review and update all our Responsibilities on an ongoing basis to ensure that our reputation and integrity and our brand is not compromised.

Contact Us

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