



UltraGreen™
CAPS & GOWNS FOR ECO-SERIOUS SCHOOLS

That's right. The mill takes used plastic bottles, cleans them and chips them into plastic flakes which are then melted and forced through spinnerets to create a rich, soft yarn. The process of weaving the yarn creates the fabric.

Each graduation cap and gown sewn from recycled bottle fabric prevents 23 to 27 plastic bottles from being dumped into a landfill. Multiply that by the number of students in your graduating class. That's your contribution to today's ecological movement and tomorrow's clean Earth.



PROUD TO BE OUTFITTING
AMERICA'S GRADUATES
WITH CAPS AND GOWNS
MADE IN AMERICA



University Cap & Gown
www.GradGowns.com

Caps and Gowns - Choral Robes - Judicial Attire
Class Rings - Diplomas - Announcements - Invitations
486 ANDOVER STREET - LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS 01843-2108
(800) 585-5500 - (978) 686-4566 - FAX: (978) 686-8177

There are 2 types of recycled fabrics on the market today for graduation caps and gowns.

Option 1

Bamboo fabric is promoted as an eco-friendly product developed from a fast-growing renewable source, bamboo. The process of converting the hard grass product to a soft fabric requires the bamboo fiber to be processed in a bath of lye, a corrosive alkaline substance (sodium hydroxide, NaOH, also known as Caustic soda) and carbon disulfide along with multi-phase bleaching with chemical agents such as chlorine and sulfuric acid (H₂SO₄), a strong mineral acid. The end result is a soft fiber used to develop a textile or fabric. Bamboo fabric is currently available to the graduation cap and gown industry as an eco-friendly product. **Note:** *The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has issued a consumer alert regarding this claim.¹ Additionally, Consumer Reports, the independent consumer advocacy organization, has completed testing of this product and has issued similar warnings.²*

Option 2

The second fabric, developed from recycled PET plastic bottles, is a green renewable fiber produced from a series of simple, eco-friendly steps. First, bottles are collected from recycling centers, like those found on most college and university campuses. The bottles are washed and cleaned using biodegradable detergent. The bottles are then chipped into plastic flakes, melted and forced through spinnerets to create yarn. The process of weaving the yarn creates the fabric. This product is the reuse of waste that would otherwise be buried in landfills. Each graduation cap and gown sewn from recycled bottle fabric is estimated to keep 27 or more soda bottles out of landfills. A graduating class of 1,000 would prevent 27,000 plastic bottles from ending up in the landfill. And, as an added benefit, the fabric is durable enough to be used over and over by future graduates.

If you had to develop an eco-friendly fabric for your school's caps and gowns, which option would you choose?

We selected option 2 as the fabric used for our new *UltraGreen* outfits. It was a “no brainer.”



¹ <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/alerts/alt160.shtm>

² <http://www.greenerchoices.org/products.cfm?product=bamboofabric&pcat=homegarden>