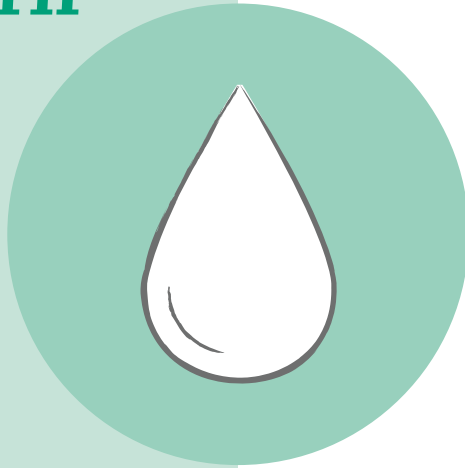
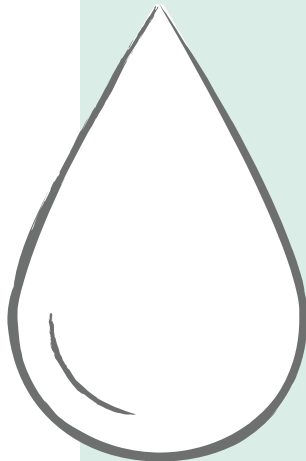


GUIDELINE ON

# *Water Protection in the Supply Chain*



Water is the basis of all life.  
REWE Group aims at ensuring  
a sustainable water management  
and at protecting salt and  
fresh water as a habitat as  
well as a resource in the  
long term by reducing the  
use and the pollution of  
water in their supply chains.



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## I. UNDERSTANDING AND SCOPE

As a leading international trade and tourism company, REWE Group is aware of its special role as an intermediary between manufacturers, service providers and consumers. The production of REWE Group's private label products has an impact on people (social), animals and nature (ecological). REWE Group's customers expect and should be able to trust that REWE Group, as a trading company, is aware of its responsibility in the supply chains of its private labels and addresses the effects. In its "Guidelines for Sustainable Business Practices", REWE Group acknowledges its environmental and social corporate responsibility. The values described therein form the foundation for the responsible actions of the company (REWE Group 2011).

Water is necessary across all product areas and all stages of the production of the diverse product range of REWE Group. Sparing use of fresh water along the supply chains and in particular in the cultivation areas as well as the avoidance of water pollution and marine waste is of special importance to the trading group because water is the basis of all life. It is essential for our nutrition and at the same time a prerequisite for biological diversity. REWE Group is committed to ensuring a sustainable water management and to protecting fresh water and salt water as a habitat and as a resource in the long term.

The scope of these guidelines covers all supply chains for the private labels of REWE Group, which are sold in Germany by REWE, PENNY and toom Baumarkt DIY stores. It does not cover the operational water use of REWE Group but only the use of water in the supply chains.

REWE Group would also like to make its employees and partners in the supply chain aware of the importance of a more economical use of water and to point out respective measures. The present guideline defines a binding framework for REWE Group's actions and its business relationships with contractual partners. Defined requirements are consistently reviewed, and new measures and goals are agreed as required. In addition, the guidelines are updated on the basis of current trends and developments.

## II. ISSUES

Since water is essential for the nutrition of humans, plants and animals, and constitutes an important habitat, it is the basis of all life.

Water is a self-renewing resource that is formed in a steady cycle of evaporation and rainfall. Water evaporates from lakes, rivers and oceans, but also from humans, plants and animals and is released into the atmosphere. This water vapour forms clouds in the higher atmospheric layers and returns to the earth's surface as rain or snow. Then, the water seeps through the soil, and after a long process, it forms the ground water, which, in turn, can be accessed through wells or pumps. In contrast to fossil resources such as carbon and mineral oil, water cannot be used up. Rather, it is used and then returned to the water cycle (Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety 2017). However, due to the lengthy renewal processes, especially the ground water as one of the most frequently used resources is quite scarce.

Water is unevenly distributed, both over the globe and over the seasons, and its reservoirs are restored at different rates depending on the regions concerned. In connection with the prospective impacts of climate change, further worsening of this uneven distribution can be expected (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 2014) and the scarcity and value of fresh water continue to increase.

But what is decisive for all kinds of life around the globe, is not only the quantity of water but also its quality. Sufficient availability of clean fresh and salt water is the basis for healthy agricultural and marine products as well as for drinking water. In this way, clean water ensures the supply of healthy food for people and contributes greatly to the economy (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations 2011).

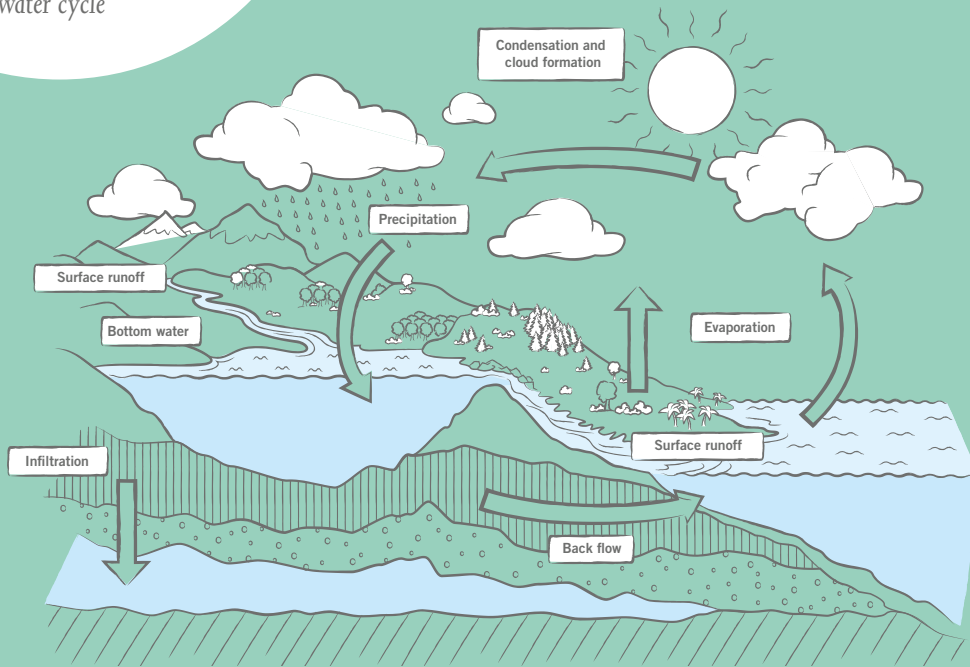


Figure 1: Simplified water cycle

## 2.1 Use of water

Since the 1980s, water consumption has been continuously increasing by around one per cent each year. There are many reasons: Population growth, socio-economic developments such as urbanisation and higher standards of living and changes in consumption all contribute to increased water consumption. According to estimations, the global demand for water will continue to increase at a similar rate until 2050 (UNESCO 2019).

For several years now, water has been among the 5 global risks to economy according to risk reports of the World Economic Forum (WWF Deutschland 2018). All in all, 17 countries in which one quarter of the world's population lives are affected by "extremely high water stress" (World Resource Institute 2019). Malnutrition, food insecurity and conflicts are the consequence (Brot für die Welt 2015).

The German economy trades in goods produced abroad, such as textiles and clothing, agricultural produce and raw materials.

Many goods originate from regions where water is scarce. In addition, governments in these regions are often fragile and infrastructures insufficient (WWF Deutschland 2014).

With 69 per cent, agriculture, including irrigation, animal husbandry and aquaculture, is the sector with the highest water consumption worldwide (UNESCO 2019).

# Water

is one of the five global risks to economy. Water consumption increases by 1 per cent each year.

## 2.2 Pollution of water

Global water pollution endangers the environment and billions of people (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations 2018). In low-income countries, an average of only 8 per cent of the wastewater is treated before it is discharged into the environment, resulting in water-related diseases such as cholera and bilharzia (tropical infectious disease) (UNESCO 2017).

The value chain of food is the main factor contributing to the pollution of the earth's fresh water. Especially in developing countries, the contribution of agriculture to water pollution is not being considered sufficiently. Recently, the use of pesticides and fertilisers has increased due to increasing land use (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations 2018).

In industrial countries, the expansion of urban areas and sealing of soils, e.g. due to the construction of roads and buildings, reduces the surfaces where water can seep into the ground water. Therefore, the formation of ground water takes place mainly on unsealed, primarily agricultural land. Agricultural soils already account for about half of the land area available for infiltration (Federal Statistical Office 2019), which is why, from a water protection point of view, they have become even more important.

The use of fertilisers in the cultivation of agricultural products and feed leads to a higher nutrient content in the ground water (UNESCO 2019). In addition, toxic heavy metals contained in fertilisers pollute the water (Federal Environmental Agency 2019a). As a result of animal husbandry, pollutants such as antibiotics and animal growth hormones enter the water (Food and

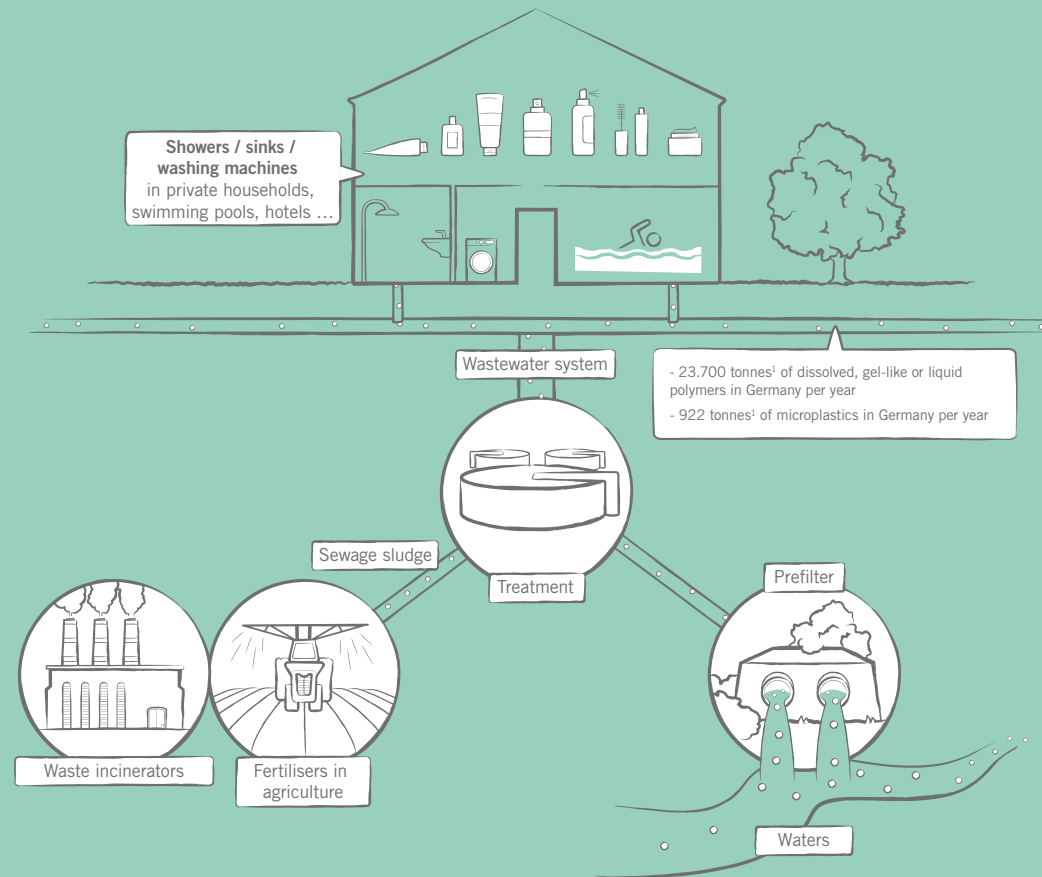
Agriculture Organization of the United Nations 2018). But the problem of water pollution can also be found in aquaculture where nutrients find their way into the environment because wastewater is contaminated with excrements (World Ocean Review 2013).

As for the chemical pollution of our water, the textile industry comes into focus: The production often makes use of chemicals which can have a harmful effect on human health and the environment in the long term. From the factories, they are often discharged untreated into the waters. In China, the level of water pollution caused by the textile industry is particularly high.

In addition, 12.7 million tonnes of plastic waste end up in our oceans each year (Jambeck et al. 2015) consisting of, among other things, single-use products, foils, packaging, remains of fishing nets and rigging (Federal Environmental Agency 2019b). This has direct effects on marine life: sea animals might get entangled in the waste or possibly strangle themselves (Federal Environmental Agency 2019b). Especially in countries without a functioning waste disposal infrastructure, about one third of packaging waste is released into the environment, e.g. the oceans, in an uncontrolled way. Since decomposition of plastics is a very slow process, it takes extremely long for waste to vanish (WWF Deutschland 2017). Besides, animals often swallow the waste. Plastic particles can be detected in the stomachs of marine birds and sea turtles (Ocean Conservancy 2019). Plastics and microplastics accumulating inside marine animals can lead to severe infections and blockages. Through fishing, they can end up in the human food chain.

Microplastics are also formed on land, however, for example by the abrasion of car tyres or shoe soles, UV radiation and bacteria or temperature fluctuations. Apart from this, microplastics are produced industrially and used together with dissolved, gel-like and liquid polymers as formula components in cosmetic products such as creams, hair gels and shampoos. After their use, the substances are drained in the sink and shower and end up almost completely in the wastewater and from there in the sewage treatment plants, where they usually cannot be filtered out completely.

Paths of microplastics and dissolved, gel-like and liquid polymers from cosmetic products into the environment



<sup>1</sup>: Annual quantity used for cosmetics in Germany Source: Bertling, Hamann & Hiebel 2018

**Figure 2:** Paths of microplastics and dissolved, gel-like and liquid polymers from cosmetic products into the environment

### III. WATER IN THE SUPPLY CHAINS OF REWE GROUP

REWE Group is aware of the effects on water that occur along the supply chain and is continuously working towards resolving the identified hotspots.

The focus here is on the use of water in the manufacture of products and on water pollution. REWE Group implements diverse measures and is continuously searching for new ways to reduce the use of water and to avoid water pollution.

As part of a risk analysis carried out in 2017 and other individual hotspot analyses, the topics of water use and water pollution in raw material cultivation and production were identified as key issues.

In the supply chains of REWE Group, increased use of water can occur in particular in connection with the extraction of wood, cotton and natural stone as well as in the cultivation of fruits and vegetables. Additionally, the production of paper is associated with high water consumption. Inefficient use of water may also be an issue in metal and plastic processing companies as well as all other non-food suppliers of REWE Far East.

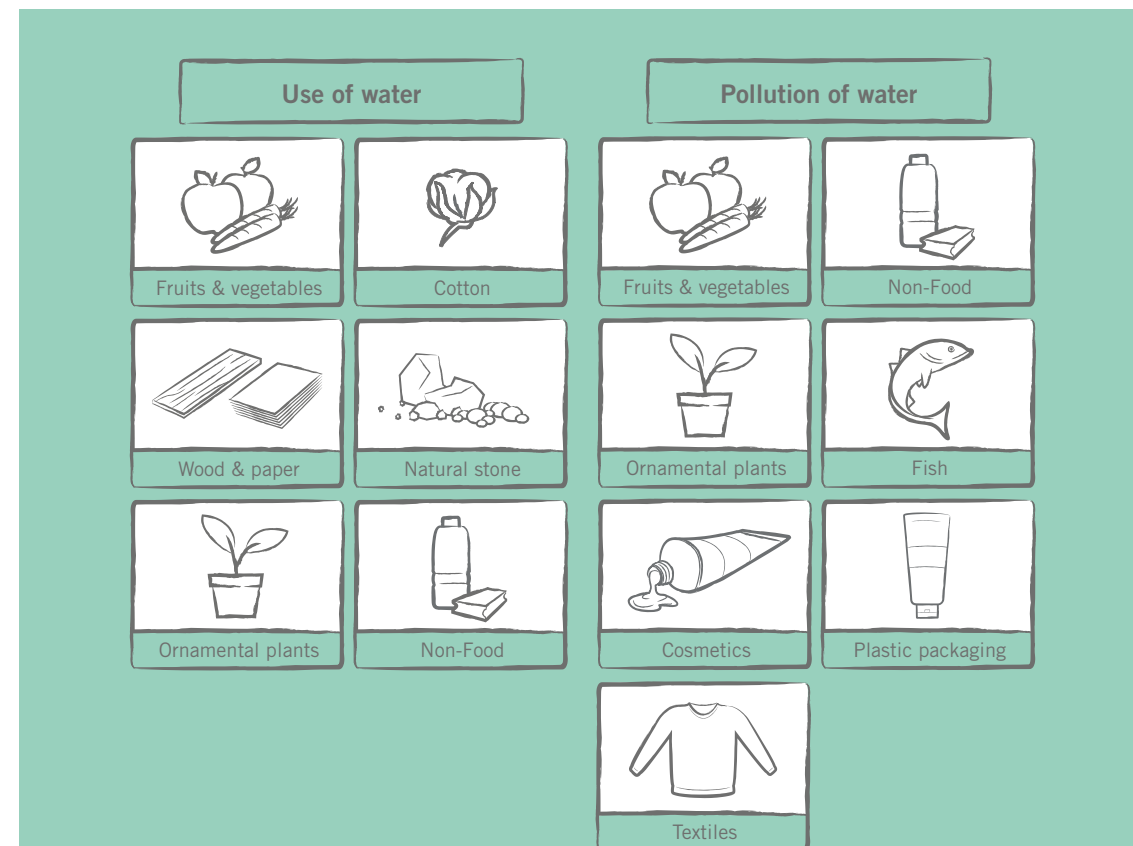
Water pollution, however, may be a major issue in the cultivation of ornamental plants, fruits and vegetables because ground water, surface water and cultivated soil are contaminated by the use of chemicals and fertilisers. In fish farming, artificial nutrient input and fish excrements can contaminate the water.



In many cosmetic products, microplastics as well as dissolved and liquid polymers are formula components, and enter inland waters and the oceans through the wastewater. The situation is similar with single-use plastics or plastic packaging, which can decompose to microplastics. If they are not disposed of properly, they can also end up in rivers or marine waters.

At the production site level, textile production can play an environmentally hazardous role due to the use of harmful chemicals. These are discharged with the wastewater into the surrounding waters and can lead to serious environmental damages. Metal and plastic processing companies as well as all other non-food suppliers of REWE Far East can also contribute to water pollution.

For this reason, the following focus product groups and raw materials were defined:



## IV. REWE GROUP'S APPROACH FOR CREATING MORE RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY CHAINS

Through a clear strategic commitment and appropriate measures, REWE Group aims to ensure a sustainable water management and to protect fresh water and salt water as a habitat and resource in the long term.

Sustainability is firmly anchored in REWE Group's corporate strategy. For REWE Group, this means: Promoting more sustainable product ranges and ensuring fair treatment of partners and suppliers, acting in an environmentally and climate-conscious manner, assuming responsibility for its employees and taking responsibility for contributing to a sustainable society. The "Green Products" pillar bundles all activities aimed at making purchasing and production processes more sustainable and thus expanding more sustainable product ranges. The activities of REWE Group are broken down into three fields of action:

- People
- Animals
- Environment

Water is one of three focus topics in the environmental field of action.

REWE Group has developed an approach for responsible supply chains in order to identify, evaluate and process the effects of private label products on people, animals and the environment:

**1. Risk analyses:** REWE Group continuously assesses opportunities and risks in the area of sustainability. On the one hand, these are based on external evaluations of product areas, specific products or raw material supply chains. On the other hand, the assessment and experience of the external NGO expert advisory board for sustainability as well as other stakeholders such as producers, suppliers and also employees are included.

**2. Derivation of focus topics and goals:** On the basis of the risk analyses carried out, focus raw materials and focus topics as well as goals and measures were defined, which are adapted and scrutinised when new results or findings emerge.

**3. Definition and implementation of measures:** Measures to achieve the goals and work on the focus raw materials and key topics are implemented on three different levels of cooperation.

**3.1. Internal cooperation:** By raising internal awareness and providing training, continuously analysing opportunities and risks and formulating strategies and goals, REWE Group continues to integrate sustainable procurement into its purchasing processes with the aim of taking sustainability aspects into account in every supplier and/or product decision.

**3.2. Cooperation within the supply chain:** REWE Group follows a three-step approach in its cooperation with parties involved in the supply chain, which includes the definition of requirements, control and development of the parties.

Business partners in the supply chains of private labels are obliged to indicate the production sites in which the products are manufactured for REWE Group. By raising the contract partners' awareness and holding them accountable, concrete rules are created to implement sustainability throughout the supply chain.

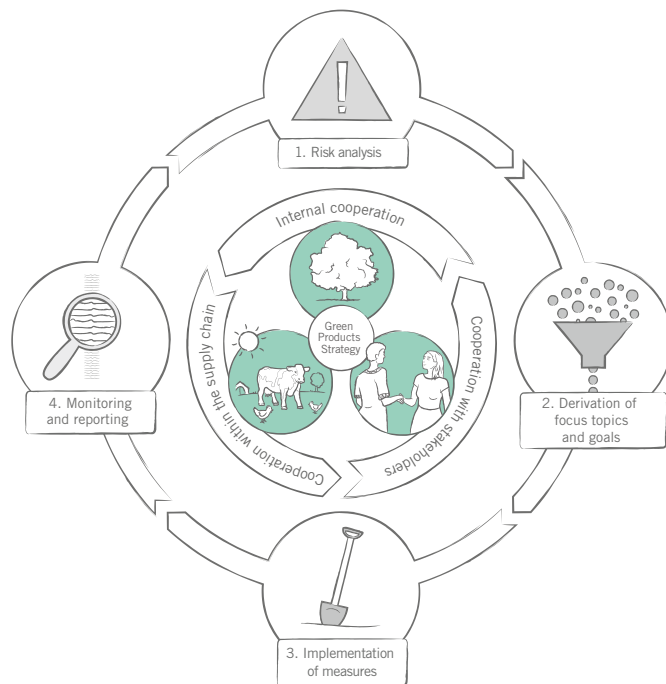
Training courses support suppliers and producers in implementing REWE Group's requirements and continuously improving their performance. In various projects, REWE Group works directly with raw material producers to meet the challenges. In addition, transparency and the integration of sustainability are promoted as part of the supplier evaluation. Work in the supply chain also includes the establishment of effective complaint mechanisms.



**3.3. Cooperation with stakeholders:** In the long term, sustainability along the supply chain can only be achieved through cooperation with all relevant stakeholders. REWE Group is in continuous contact with a large number of stakeholders and is involved in various national and international initiatives, alliances and forums.

Key elements include participation in external events, industry initiatives, partnerships, commitment to the further development of sustainability standards and monitoring of relevant developments at political and regulatory level.

**4. Monitoring and reporting:** The implemented activities are monitored and evaluated. The findings of the monitoring are incorporated into the further development of the measures.



In order to reduce the use and pollution of water, REWE Group uses certifications and cooperates with different standards organisations:

**Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC):** ASC is an independent and non-profit organisation that develops and maintains an environmental and social standard for responsible fish farming. This standard requires breeders to demonstrate that they comply with criteria for the protection of nature and biodiversity. The quality of water has to be checked regularly, and there are stringent limit values for nutrient input. Farms need to have wastewater and sludge treatment systems, provide for appropriate working conditions and show consideration for the surrounding communities. The products can be traced back to their production. In this way, consumers always know where the products come from and how they were produced when buying fish and seafood.

**Blauer Engel (Blue Angel):** This certificate identifies products and services that are more eco-friendly compared to other offers. The criteria for the awarding of the eco-label are developed by the Federal Environmental Agency on a scientific basis. These criteria include energy consumption, input of harmful substances into the waters, effects on indoor climate, waste produced and use of problematic raw materials and chemicals as well as functional characteristics including durability, to name just a few.

**Cotton made in Africa (CmiA):** The aim of this initiative is to improve the living conditions of people in African cotton growing areas. For example, African small farmers are trained in sustainable and efficient cotton cultivation and in business management skills that enable them to improve their economic situation on their own. Here, the focus is on conservation of soil fertility and the protection of waters. Cotton produced for Cotton made in Africa is exclusively grown with rain-fed cultivation. This improves the water footprint compared to conventionally farmed cotton. In addition, farmers are trained in the conscious and reduced use of pesticides.

**EU-Eco-regulation:** The logo identifies products from organic agriculture that have been produced in accordance with the guidelines of the EU-Ecoregulation. Organic agriculture refrains from using chemical synthetic pesticides and fertilizers, among other things, in order to promote the preservation of biodiversity and protect the climate. The regulations cover cultivation and processing as well as trade, and compliance is verified by regular checks.



**Fairtrade:** The Fairtrade label stands for improved working and living conditions for farmers and employees in agricultural production in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Compliance with international standards is monitored by independent bodies. Fixed minimum prices and premiums for joint projects should offer farmers and employees greater planning security and create fair trading conditions. Child labour and forced labour are prohibited. Comprehensive environmental criteria include cultivation guidelines, waste and water management, as well as measures to protect the climate and biodiversity. Deforestation and the use of genetically modified plants are prohibited. Fairtrade has set up a comprehensive prohibition list for pesticides in the conventional sector and also promotes organic farming. The Fairtrade producer networks advise and train local producers and implement projects.

**Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®):** FSC is an organisation which promotes important environmental and social standards for sustainable forestry. The standards apply on a worldwide basis and also include specifications on the protection of water resources. In line with these specifications, the forestry company conserves or restores natural streams, waters and shore zones and avoids negative impacts on water quality and quantity.

**GLOBALG.A.P.:** The IFA standard GLOBALG.A.P. for “Good Agricultural Practices” addresses the fields of plants (incl. fruits and vegetables), livestock and aquacultures. As an internationally recognised standard, it sets criteria for compliance with legal regulations, food safety, occupational health and safety, animal welfare, environmental protection and ecological responsibility. The GGN label identifies, for example, products from aquaculture farms certified by GLOBALG.A.P.

**Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS):** The GOTS standard assumes that textiles are produced under more controlled, socially and environmentally compatible conditions - from cultivation to the finished product. In all stages of production, products made of organic fibres must be clearly identified and distinguished from products made of conventional fibres. Thanks to the measures, water consumption can be reduced. All chemical additives must be checked before use, and the basic requirements regarding toxicity and biodegradability must be met.

Besides, the use of problematic additives such as toxic heavy metals which might get into the wastewater is prohibited. All companies must have their own environmental protection program in place, including set goals and measures for the reduction of waste and wastewater. Packaging material must not contain PVC.

**MPS (Milieu Programma Sierteelt):** This international standard promotes more sustainability within the entire horticultural sector. There are (online) tools, annual audits and certificates, which ensure that sustainability becomes more and more an integral part of the daily operations of companies. The standard takes into account the use of resources, environmental protection, social aspects and quality assurance. It deploys a ranking system which demonstrates how individual companies are positioned in comparison with their competitors. The result indicates aspects that can be improved and is based in particular on the use and handling of pesticides and fertilisers, the consumption of energy and water as well as on the waste produced.

**Naturland:** The organic cultivation association Naturland defines strict guidelines for the cultivation of organic food for its members. These guidelines focus on a holistic approach, sustainable management, nature and climate protection in practice, securing and preserving soil, air and water as well as consumer protection. With its guidelines, Naturland also covers areas that are not regulated by the EU organic logo – for example human rights and employment requirements such as free choice of workplace, freedom of assembly and access to trade unions, equality, children’s rights and health and safety are also taken into account for certification. The association operates internationally and promotes organic farming worldwide.

**Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes (PEFC™):** PEFC is a system which is aimed at ensuring a more sustainable forest management. The certification addresses the entire production from raw material to finished good and includes controls carried out by independent experts. With respect to forest management, all protective functions are reasonably considered, among other things the conservation of water and soils. Waters must not be impaired by the forest management.

**QS Qualität und Sicherheit (quality and safety):** The QS quality label stands for reliable processes, verified quality assurance in the production and marketing of fresh food along the entire value chain of meat, sausages, fruits and vegetables. Controls address among other things the use of water, the admissibility of water withdrawal and discharge, the quality of water, fertilisation and the use of approved pesticides when farming fruits, vegetables and potatoes. Residue monitoring supervises the compliance with applicable maximum residue levels for pesticides and limit values for harmful substances and nitrate.

**Rainforest Alliance/UTZ:** The organisation works at the interface between business, forestry and agriculture to meet social and environmental challenges. The power of the markets is used to make supply chains more sustainable. Producers can achieve a higher price by selling certified products. With respect to the ecological and social criteria of Rainforest Alliance, the focus is on conserving biodiversity and sustainably ensuring the livelihood by changing the land use and business practices. The standards also set out requirements for the discharge of wastewater and the sparing use of water.

**Xertifix e.V.:** The NGO stands up against child labour and slavery in the extraction and processing of natural stones in India, China and Vietnam. The seal guarantees compliance with social minimum standards in quarries and all participating processing facilities in the countries of origin. Various criteria with respect to water management, such as the development and implementation of respective measures (incl. monitoring of water use, detection of potential savings, e.g. by means of water economisers, reuse of water and use of rainwater) as well as management of waste and hazardous substances, are checked in the certification process.

## V. IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURES

All of REWE Group's private label suppliers are committed to adhering to the [Guidelines for Sustainable Business Practices](#) in which the trading company declares to use the resource water sparingly and efficiently.

As a member of the amfori Business Environmental Performance Initiative (BEPI), REWE Group is supported in the identification of environmental hotspots in their supply chains, in comparing the data on the entire global supply chain and in formulating specific measures on the basis of the new insights. In this way, the progress can be monitored and measured in order to achieve the envisaged improvements, and REWE Group can effectively reduce the negative impacts on the environment that emerge within the supply chains.

In the cultivation of raw materials and in the production, REWE Group cooperates with standard organisations in order to achieve and ensure a more sustainable use of water in the supply chains. Blauer Engel, Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance/UTZ, Naturland, EU organic logo and Cotton made in Africa rank among the most important certification systems.

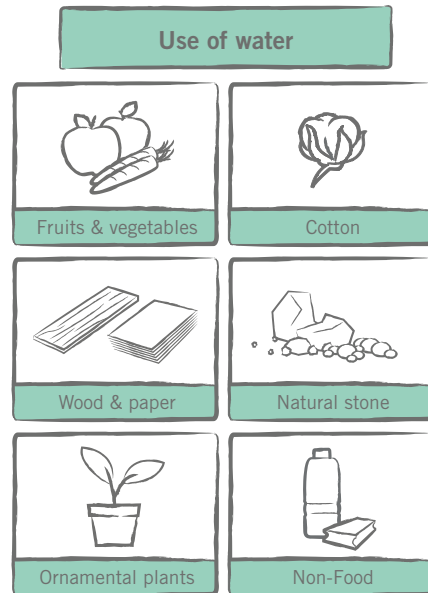
With the measures described below, REWE Group intends to reduce the negative effects resulting from the use of water and from water pollution:



## 5.1 Use of water

**REWE Group is working on reducing water consumption in the cultivation and production of their private label products and on developing solutions towards a more efficient use of water.**

Under the cooperation with certification systems like Rainforest Alliance, Fairtrade or Naturland, REWE Group’s manufacturers and suppliers of private label products are obliged to use water sustainably within their processes.



In addition, REWE Far East, the purchasing body of REWE Group, has initiated the so-called “Green Production Program” with the goal of improving the environmental impacts in the supply chain. The program relates to all non-food goods and focuses on Asian countries as well as metal and plastic processing companies. It is based, amongst others, on the instruments of amfori BEPI, which include not only self-assessment but also audits and consultation.

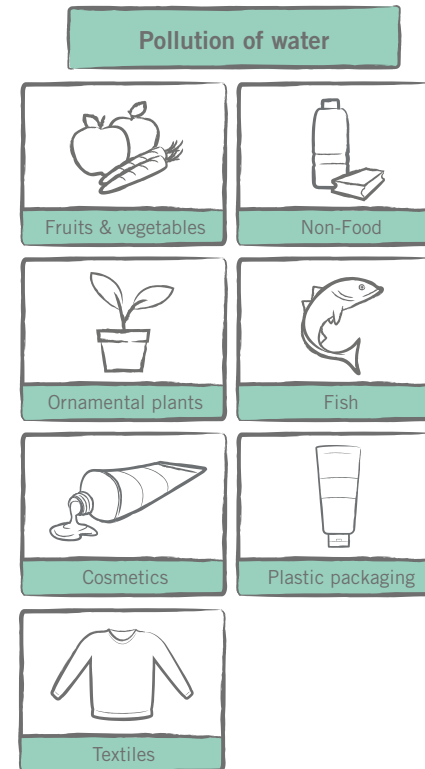
Together with other ecological topics, water management and the reuse of water play a major role. If water use is identified as a problem area in the self-assessments, the relevant companies are supported in resolving the identified problem areas by means of training and consultation projects. In this context, an action plan is developed in order to achieve specific improvements, e.g. the implementation of monitoring. In this way, potential savings can be identified.

Environmental audits according to ISO 14001 also record which producers already comply with environmental requirements.

## 5.2 Pollution of water

**REWE Group aims at avoiding water pollution in cultivation and in the production of their private label products.**

Under the cooperation with certification systems, REWE Group’s suppliers of private label products and their producers are encouraged to avoid water pollution.



In order to counteract the water pollution along the supply chains, REWE Group has launched the detox program (cf. [Guideline for More Sustainable Textiles](#)) for their private-label clothing, shoes and home textiles in 2014. The program aims at systematically reducing water pollution caused by chemicals. As an integral part of the purchasing process, REWE Group regularly carries out wastewater tests at the factories and suppliers and releases the results. Suppliers are supported in improving their processes and implementing corrective measures. For this purpose, REWE Group, together with their suppliers, is working on a substitution plan for

the reduction of hazardous chemicals. The trading company supports their suppliers with information and trainings on chemicals management.

Since REWE Group is a member of amfori BEPI, suppliers participating in trainings and consultation projects are supported in the wastewater management. This includes the analysis of existing improvement potential,

steps to reduce harmful substances in the wastewater, measures regarding the further use of water and progress measurement.

In addition, REWE Group lays down specifications regarding the use of fertilisers and pesticides on agricultural land that go much further than the statutory provisions. Thus, critical substance classes are not permitted in the cultivation of ornamental plants. In this way, the trading company makes it clear that, even in the cultivation of ornamental plants, fruits and vegetables, biodiversity and surrounding waters can still be protected.

REWE Group also limits the sum of all pesticide residues, thereby eliminating negative additive effects that might arise from using various substances. Furthermore, the “acute reference dose” is limited which refers to the maximum acceptable daily intake of pesticide residues defined by the World Health Organisation. REWE Group’s fruits and vegetables suppliers must also observe the prescribed nitrate levels. Compliance with these requirements is checked on a regular basis by REWE Group by means of a residue monitoring.

Furthermore, REWE Group cooperates with certification organisations such as Rainforest Alliance, QS Qualität und Sicherheit or GLOBALG.A.P. for water conservation. Along with residue monitoring, comprehensive preventive measures for water conservation are carried out. In fish farming, REWE Group emphasises the ASC standard which stands for regular controls of the water quality and for wastewater treatment.

**By reducing packaging material and single-use plastic products, REWE Group stands up for a decreased input of microplastics into our waters.**

In its three-step approach for more eco-friendly packaging, REWE Group is pursuing the goal of using 100 per cent more eco-friendly private label packaging by the end of 2030. The idea is to use less plastic in future, among other things, by avoiding, reducing and improving packaging, since plastic is a source of microplastics which pollute the environment and especially our waters. For more information see our [Guideline on More Eco-Friendly Packaging](#).

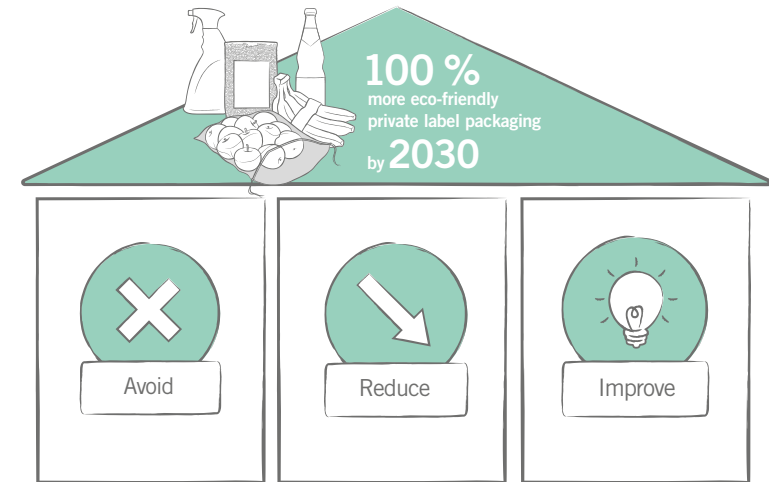


Figure 3: The principles of REWE Group's approach to more eco-friendly packaging

Microplastics as well as dissolved, gel-like or liquid polymers are used in the formulations of cosmetic products. This is why REWE Group lays down requirements and measures regarding the use of these substances in cosmetic products in its [Guideline on Microplastics in Cosmetic Products](#). REWE Group dispenses with microplastics and defined dissolved, gel-like and liquid polymers in cosmetic products in order to contribute to reducing and resolving the ecological impacts.

Further measures already implemented by REWE Group address the reduction of single-use plastic products, e.g. single-use plastic straws are no longer sold. Instead, they were replaced with equivalents made of paper, reusable glass or stainless steel. In addition, disposable tableware has been banned from the product range. REWE Group now sells more eco-friendly alternatives made from paper or disposable cutlery made of wood. In future, further reusable tableware alternatives will be listed in order to completely replace single-use plastic products.

### REWE Group is committed to reducing and avoiding waste in the seas.

There is hardly any environmental impact as grave as the impact of plastic waste in the oceans. The waste is recklessly discarded and ends up in the seas through rivers or is directly thrown overboard into the seas from vessels and boats. This is generally an issue in regions without a functioning waste disposal infrastructure, e.g. in places outside Germany and Europe. Especially on smaller islands of the Maldives atolls, garbage is not disposed of properly. There, REWE Group extends its commitment in the field of resource conservation along the supply chains. In 2019, REWE Group started to support the Maldives in fighting increased waste in the ocean together with their tuna supplier, the food retailer followfood. The measures in the Laamu Atoll include continuous disposal of plastic waste on the islands, installation of multiple-use drinking water systems for the reduction of disposable bottles on fishing boats and ecological education for children and adolescents.



## VI. OBJECTIVES

Specific goals give REWE Group's commitment a clear orientation and are subject to a continuous progress review. REWE Group would like to increase water efficiency, minimise water pollution and enhance water treatment. Moreover, REWE Group aims at continuously reviewing and reducing water consumption in the manufacture of products. Similarly, it seeks to find new ways for preventing water pollution.

The topic of water is taken into account and further expanded in the relevant focus product groups and raw materials. The respective goals are therefore laid down in these guidelines on the different groups of products and raw materials as well as in the annual sustainability report of REWE Group:

- [Guideline on Microplastics in Cosmetic Products](#)
- [Guideline for More Sustainable Textiles](#)
- [Sustainability Report](#)

## VII. REPORTING AND COMMUNICATION

REWE Group is convinced that transparency and the provision of comprehensive information are a basic prerequisite for the sensitization for the valuable resource water. REWE Group reports regularly and publicly on progress and obstacles in the implementation of the measures and the attainment of the targets. This is done through press releases, via the REWE Group website or via the sustainability report of the Group.

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The dialogue on the topic of water is of great importance to us. Please contact us with suggestions and questions at:  
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