

FACTZZZZ

...ON DOWN AND FEATHER

DOWN AND FEATHER: THE HEALTHY CHOICE FOR ALLERGY SUFFERERS

Dust is everywhere...it is a natural byproduct of living.

BUT, DID YOU KNOW?

- To the some 10 percent of the population with dust allergies, dust is a health issue and a leading precursor to allergy-induced asthma?
- That such allergies are actually caused by dust mites?
- That hypoallergenic down and feather pillow and comforters are actually a good choice for dust mite allergy sufferers?

WHAT MAKES DOWN AND FEATHER HYPOALLERGENIC?

One of the reasons that down and feather is a healthy choice for allergy sufferers is because it is sterilized and super cleaned before its manufacture into a pillow or comforter. Furthermore, according to the American Down and Feather Council (ADFC), hypoallergenic down and feather bedding naturally possesses qualities that inhibit the production of irritating dust mites:

- **It breathes** which allows moisture to be wicked away and to evaporate. Because it does not trap perspiration, it does not create the moist environment that dust mites need in order to survive.
- **Down and feather pillows and comforters have superior construction**—high thread count and tight seams—in order to prevent down and feathers from escaping. This quality construction creates a barrier to dust mites.

THE SECRET LIFE OF DUST MITES

There’s actually nothing secret about the life and times of the household dust mite, but because they are invisible to the naked eye, how they live just seems like a secret. A brief primer can help explain why and how down and feather bedding is a good choice for dust mite allergy sufferers.

They eat	Dead skin cells that humans normally shed by the hundreds of thousands every day	Dust Mites do not eat down and feather
They don't drink	Instead, they absorb water from humidity in the atmosphere	Down and feather breathes and does not fulfill the water needs of dust mites
They thrive	In 70 degree F temperatures and 70% relative humidity	Down and feather does not trap moisture, so it doesn't create a humid environment
They die	Females live 5- 10 weeks; males have a 2 week life span. When they die, they, become part of the microscopic dust that irritates allergy sufferers.	



WHY SHOULD YOU LOOK FOR THIS LABEL?

...because it takes the guesswork out of shopping for down and feather.

Seeing this ADFC Seal of Approval on your bedding packaging is a mark of quality. It assures that the product meets all state and federal requirements and industry standards in the following areas:

CONTENT

- To be labeled as a down product, down content must be labeled and must contain a minimum of 75% down cluster
- In products that contain both, down and feather content percentages must be listed (i.e. 50% down/ 50% feathers)

CLEANLINESS

- Down and feathers are processed to the highest cleanliness standards

COMPLIANCE

- To be listed as hypoallergenic, the products must adhere to prescribed oxygen and turbidity levels
- The volume—or fill power—must be measured and listed as cubic inches per ounce
- Thread Count of the coverings must conform to Federal Trade Commission (FTC) rules regarding the number of threads per square inch of fabric. Specifically, two-ply yarns must be counted as a single thread and may not be used to double the thread count.

Under the American Down and Feather Council’s (ADFC) labeling program, all sampling, classification and testing of the filling material must be done in accordance with International Down and Feather Bureau (IDFB) testing standards and be performed by an IDFB certified testing laboratory.