



positive and negative environmental impacts associated with

olefin (polypropylene and polyethylene)

Polypropylene and polyethylene are synthetic fibers derived from petroleum or gas.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• melt-spun fiber - melt spinning is relatively cleaner than dry and wet spinning• lower-embodied energy compared to other synthetic fibers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• non-renewable resource• long-line of processing• many carcinogenic chemicals such as lead based pigments are used• additives such as anti-oxidants (to resist discolouring and loss of mechanical properties), UV stabilizers and flame retardants (because PE and PP undergo combustion more readily than any other common synthetic fiber)• fiber production is energy and water intensive• non-degradable• no recycling infrastructure