



Term	Definition
<b>Baseline</b>	An outcome-focused indicator to measure and report on performance over time.
<b>Biodegradability</b>	The ability of a product to biodegrade. See <i>Biodegradation</i> .
<b>Biodegradation</b>	The microbial conversion of all organic constituents (including organic additives) to carbon dioxide, new microbial biomass and mineral salts under toxic conditions, or to carbon dioxide, methane, new microbial biomass and mineral salts under anoxic conditions. Definition requires specification over a pre-defined timeframe and the (open) environment in which biodegradation is assessed.
<b>Commercial laundering</b>	A process by which textile garments are washed, rinsed and dried using commercial laundering equipment rather than domestic washing machines used at home.
<b>Domestic laundering</b>	A process by which textile garments are washed using a domestic washing machine.
<b>Fibre</b>	A generic term for any one of the various types of matter that form the basic elements of a textile and which are generally defined as having flexibility, fineness, and high ratio of length to thickness.
<b>Fibre fragment</b>	A short piece of textile fibre, broken from the main textile construction or through its subsequent breakage in the natural environment.
<b>(Fibre) Fragmentation</b>	The process of fibre loss from a textile product during its life cycle and / or through its subsequent breakage in the natural environment. This is also referred to as fibre <i>shedding</i> .
<b>(Fibre) Leakage</b>	See <i>(Fibre) Loss</i> .
<b>(Fibre) Loss</b>	Quantity of fibres that unintentionally leaves a managed product or waste management system during manufacture, consumer use/wear and end of use. Fibre loss can be quantified through testing. Also referred to as <i>shedding</i> .
<b>Microfibre</b>	<p>The textile industry definition of a microfibre is a synthetic fibre with a linear density of less than 1 denier.</p> <p>There is a different understanding of this term in the context of unintended release of fibres and thus subsequent microfibre pollution.</p> <p>The Microfibre Consortium, in this context does not determine the size nor the type. To avoid such confusion, fibre fragment / fibre fragmentation is the preferred terminology.</p>
<b>Microplastic</b>	A small piece of plastic debris measuring 5mm or less, found in the environment from the disposal or breakdown of consumer products and industrial waste. Synthetic fibre fragments are considered microplastics.

<b>(Transfer) Pathway</b>	A route by which fibres are released to the environment following loss from a textile product. Different types of transfer pathways lead from loss to release. For example, wastewater, air or soil.
<b>(Fibre) Release</b>	Quantity of fibres leaving a textile product during manufacturing, use or end of use and ending up in the natural environment
<b>Root cause</b>	Determination of the factor(s) that cause unintentional fibre loss and could be addressed through process improvement of material design and development to prevent it occurring during manufacture, use or end of use.
<b>Science-led</b>	Driven by a scientific, evidenced based approach developed through peer-reviewed primary and desk-based research.
<b>Shedding</b>	The process by which textile fibres are unintentionally lost from a textile. Also referred to as <i>(fibre) loss</i> .
<b>The Microfibre Data Portal</b>	A data repository housing testing data and technical specifications of fabrics tested using The Microfibre Consortium Test Method.
<b>The Microfibre Knowledge Hub</b>	An online tool (currently in development) that will provide science-based guidance on the topic of fibre fragmentation and the root cause change that can be made by the industry to reduce it. It will support users' understanding of fibre fragmentation and enable impactful change at critical stages in the textile value chain by focussing on manufacturing, as well as product design and development.
<b>The Microfibre Consortium Test Method (also known as the TMC Test Method)</b>	Method for determining the quantity of textile material loss from fabrics under standard conditions which reflect those found in domestic laundering.
<b>Toxicity</b>	The degree to which a substance (a toxin or poison) can harm humans, animals or other living organisms.
<b>Toxicology</b>	The scientific study of the harmful effects of chemicals and / or substances have on people, animals and other living organisms.

For other definitions, please refer to the Textile Exchange glossary:  
<https://textileexchange.org/glossary-abbreviations/>