

Eco-friendly undies

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Bras, knickers and briefs shape our outfit and silhouette – underwear also has the most intimate of relationships with our skin. Katie Roberts picks her favourite smalls.
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Eco intimates

Aussie-based designer Madonna Bain has created a collection that's soft on the earth – and on you. Using GOTS-certified organic cotton and low-impact dyes, the fabrics are hand-crafted by home-based Balinese seamstresses – it's not the cheapest way to manufacture, but it results in happier workers. Smaller production runs also enable Bain to use remnant fabrics, rather than having them end up in waste. www.ecointimates.com.au



NAJA

Humans come in many colours, so NAJA lingerie has made a palette to suit everyone. This innovative American undies are made by single mums who are paid above-market wages plus health benefits and child education stipends. Choose from conventional fabrics or collections made from recycled plastic and printed with water-saving digital print processes. www.naja.com



NICO

Are your undies accredited by Ethical Clothing Australia? Anyone wearing NICO underwear can proudly say, "Yes!" Designer Lis Harvey offers clean lines and luxe fabrics, and as part of the revolution for a transparent fashion production system, NICO openly shares the story of their manufacturing processes and super-soft, recycled and sustainably-produced fabrics with their customers any chance they get. www.nicounderwear.com



Two minutes with ...



Ruby Raut,
CEO and Co-Founder of WUKA Period Wear.

How does WUKA underwear work? Wuka underwear is made from a sustainable, antibacterial-treated, machine-washable fabric called micro-modal, and it is designed to hug the tummy – something most women want when menstruating. You can wear them all day or night, and the high-tech absorbency layer means no leaks. The fabric can hold about 20ml of fluid – the average menstrual cycle results in 60ml of fluid over 4-5 days. The designs are classic and androgynous, and we use heat-press labels, not the itchy, sewn-on variety, for complete comfort.



WUKA

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They look like regular panties, but don't be fooled – WUKA is on a mission to save you money and reduce pollution from single-use menstrual products. The brain child of Nepalese-born environmental scientist Ruby Raut, this stylish and comfortable super-absorbent underwear can be worn, washed, and then worn again. Perfect for periods, but also for post-partum and incontinence.
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www.wuka.co.uk

Katie Roberts is an environmental scientist focused on sustainability education in the fashion industry. www.sustainabilitystyle.com