

Everything Else!



Earthshade Natural Window Shades

Earthshade produces a collection of handcrafted window shades using natural materials such as rapidly renewable grasses, reeds, bamboo, hemp and other cellulose fibers from South and Central America. Earthshade engages family-friendly and eco-friendly manufacturing processes. "Fair Trade Practices" are used as often as possible. Simple, natural methods are used to clean and color the fibers and finished goods are assembled by hand with attention to detail. Available in a variety of patterns and colors, and several versatile operating styles, these shades are produced without the use of harsh chemicals and dyes. The family-owned company is a member of Co-op America and the US Green Building Council, and is GreenSpec listed.

Advantages

- Cotton based threading is used to create weaves that are generally 2 to 3 times tighter than most others.
- Finishing agents, including lacquer, stains, fungicides, ultraviolet protectants or other chemicals are not utilized.* All coloration is obtained from sun bleaching or oven baking, which creates an even, natural and long lasting look. (*One exception is the use of a water-based, low-toxicity applied stain to the Red Sanctuary pattern.)
- The shades have insulating and sun-shading properties. A recently introduced hemp liner provides an average "R" value of 4.5.
- Upon request, shades can be prepared to meet commercial fire codes by applying a water-based, low-toxicity fire retardant.
- Shades can be cleaned by wiping with a slightly damp rag or by vacuuming.
- Shades can be composted at the end of their useful life.



(See reverse for details)

Vendor:

Earthshade Natural
Window Fashions
www.earthshade.com
P.O. Box 1003
Great Barrington MA 01230-1509
(413) 528-5443

Standard for category:

mini blinds & fabric shades

Independent certification:

GreenSpec listed

Years in service: 10+

Target user: DIY and professionals

Price Code:

100: Priced competitively to products of similar quality and appearance.

Product Summary:

Available in more than 20 styles of grass weave patterns with a myriad of options. Earthshade is committed to using the highest quality reclaimed hardware and lumber, when possible. Leftover scrapes of fabric are commonly used as packaging materials. All shades are made to order, so expect a 6-8 week lead time.

Everything Else!

Degree of Green™ Details for Earthshade Natural Window Shades

- 4° Health** Because the shades do not use toxic finishes, stains, protectants, etc. (except as noted above), they do not impart toxins into the air, especially when the sun hits the shade which is often when most toxins are released from a product that has had chemicals added during or post production.
- 3° Sustainability** This company supports sustainable and fair trade practices throughout the harvesting and manufacturing process.
- 4° Environment** Earthshade takes a holistic look at everything that goes into harvesting and manufacturing of the shades. It is truly a vertically integrated eco-manufacturer.

Disadvantages

- Most of the raw materials are obtained from sources outside of the US
- The goods are more expensive than their “from first glance” look-alikes in the discount stores
- The colors and patterns are limited to the grass/reed look

Conclusion

If you're looking for a natural grass-looking shade, Earthshades is probably the most conscientious producer of this kind of shade in the country. The company's attention to detail and concern for its workers and the environment is truly admirable and, unfortunately, a lost art.

www.safebuildingsolutions.com

Copyright 2007, Safe Building Solutions, Waukesha, Wis. Degree of Green™ sheets and the information contained herein are the sole property of Safe Building Solutions and may not be reproduced or used without the expressed permission of Safe Building Solutions. To purchase reproduction rights, contact Andrew Pace at 800-697-5371.

The Degree of Green™ Rating System

- 1° = Limited** This product has little to no green benefits in this category.
- 2° = Select** This product has some measurable green benefits in this category.
- 3° = Advanced** This product has some advanced green benefits in this category.
- 4° = Premium** This product is considered to be in the top tier of green for this category.

The Degree of Green™ ratings designate the degree to which the rated product stacks up against traditional materials, as well as to other green products in the same category. There are many reasons a product is considered green. The Degree of Green™ Rating allows you to choose what green attribute is most important to you, then will act as your guide toward that goal. The ratings are based solely on the opinions of these nationally known green building experts:



Lyn Falk
Producer/Creator
PBS "Healthy Homes"



Andy Pace
Owner/President
Safe Building Solutions



Michael Fallarino
New York State green
builder, color consultant,
holistic healer and author