



Two million plastic bottles recycled for car seat fabric

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By [Chris Woodyard](#), USA TODAY

Updated 2d ago



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Ford Motor via Wieck

Ford is finding a new use for about 2 million plastic bottles.

They were ground up and used to make the fabrics that go into the upholstery on car seats. The average Ford with seats made

"Ford is committed to delivering vehicles with leading fuel efficiency while targeting at least 25% clean technology in interior materials across our lineup," says Carol Kordich, lead designer of Sustainable Materials for Ford.



▶ CAPTION

Ford Motor via Wieck

Ford says about 29% of plastic bottles are recycled, half the rate of Europe.



The seat fabric, called Repreve, is a polyester fiber made from recycled materials. To underscore its effort, Ford plans to show how it can recycle plastic bottles from the North American International Auto Show in Detroit next week and put it toward its effort.

Among the vehicles that will get the fabric are the the new Focus electric, Ford's first all-electric passenger car. It started production last month in Wayne, Mich.

In 2009, Ford mandated that fabric suppliers use a minimum of 25% recycled content for all 2009 and beyond model year vehicles. Since then, 37 different fabrics meeting the requirements have been developed and incorporated into Ford vehicles.

Examples include soy foam seat cushions and head restraints, wheat straw-filled plastic, castor oil foam in instrument panels, recycled resins for underbody systems, recycled yarns on seat covers and natural-fiber plastic for interior components.

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