

Automotive Fabrics: Expanding Opportunities in the Vehicles of Tomorrow

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Abstracts

The use of fabrics in cars, particularly nonwovens, has been increasing as part of a move towards lighter vehicles which consume less fuel. There has also been a gradual switch in many automotive applications towards the use of recycled materials, or those based on natural fibres, as a replacement for conventional synthetics. This report provides invaluable insight into the market for automotive interiors and textiles, including leading suppliers and their products. In particular, it examines the way consolidation in the global automotive supply chain has resulted in Tier 1 automotive interior companies taking control of their own fabric production by acquiring automotive textile companies. The report also highlights trends in car and light vehicle production, and the increasing use of recycled materials and natural fibres for many automotive applications. Furthermore, it includes detailed information on occupational restraint and safety systems -- a market which will see significant growth in the future as a result of new US legislation which will make the fitting of side-impact airbags mandatory on all vehicles in 2013. The report also features an outlook for the future for automotive fabrics, including an analysis of the growing opportunities for using nonwovens and other textiles in applications such as battery separators and polyurethane foam replacement, as well as in new heating and lighting materials.

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