

# MATTRESS TO GO

*America's Home of Beducation®. Premium American Mattresses. Award-Winning Expert Advice.*

51260 Van Dyke Shelby Township, MI 48316  
Web Site: [www.matt-to-go.com](http://www.matt-to-go.com)

586-580-3605  
Email: [info@matt-to-go.com](mailto:info@matt-to-go.com)

---

## Can a mattress be organic?

When you consider a mattress labeled as organic, ask the question which specific components are certified organic. You may have certain components certified organic, or components that use organic ingredients, and still not have a completely certified organic mattress.

It is important not to confuse the terms “natural” and “organic.” Advertising a mattress as natural doesn’t have a true certifiable meaning, and there is considerable greenwashing in the industry in the use of the term organic.

## Is latex organic?

Organic certifications can be a bit confusing. You would begin with a certification of the raw materials (for things like the wool or cotton fibers and liquid latex collected from the hevea tree), and this would be a [USDA certification](#).

Next, you would need the components certified (foam layers or fiber layers or covers), and this would be either a [Global Organic Textile Standard \(GOTS\)](#) or [Global Organic Latex Standard \(GOLS\)](#) certification.

You then may have a mattress that uses organically certified products, but the finished product isn’t certified organic as a complete product. This involves meeting other criteria, and this again would be a GOTS certification.

Many manufacturers choose not to go through the GOTS or GOLS certification process, as this is costly and there are social quantifiers that have nothing to do with the quality of the material being used.

Generally, to meet GOTS or GOLS, at least 95% of the product has to meet the organic standard.

To date there are only a few plantations that have been granted organic latex status, but the number is growing. Realize that it is impossible to make latex foam without some additives (soap, sulphur, gelling agents, etc.) which technically renders any originally organic raw material non-organic at the end of the process – comparable to dyeing organic cotton with some artificial dye and still calling the end product organic. But the GOLS standard does set some very high minimum values to be met.

### **Certifications for harmful substances**

Certifications like [Oeko-Tex](#), [Certipur-US](#) and the [UL Greenguard Gold](#) don't test for organic content, but instead look for harmful substances and [Volatile Organic Compounds \(VOC\) outgassing](#).

There is a rise in the number of groups claiming to certify or test mattresses and their components. Many of these groups simply certify that a product has already achieved third-party testing certification. Others say that the finished mattress meets EPA and CPSC guidelines (all products in the USA have to meet these standards). Still others are created by owners of mattress stores or small brands in order to place some sort of approval stamp on their products, creating a false validation. Always investigate any certification claimed by a manufacturer and look for the exact testing standards.

### **Organic is the best?**

Substances may be certified organic and not score as well as a non-organically certified products when being tested for harmful substances. Being certified organic in and of itself doesn't mean that these products are the "cleanest" available, but it would be safe to say that these products would normally score very well when testing for harmful substances. In the end, your personal preference for a level of sustainability and comfort with different levels of harmful substances will be the most important key to guiding your decision on what type of mattress to purchase.