**Sub-sector: Geotextiles**

This sector is comprised of geosynthetics, geotextiles, geogrids, and geomembranes used in civil engineering. End use products are found in rail and road embankments, reservoirs, river and coastal protection, and landscaping. Nonwovens and composite fabrics are used to manufacture most of the materials used in these end use products. Geotextiles are fundamentally green and environmentally friendly.

Note: Geotextiles are also included in the Agriculture sub-sector.

**North Carolina Companies Competing in the Geotextiles Sub-sector**

**PERFORMANCE TEXTILE SECTORS**

![Map of North Carolina with dots indicating companies in the Geotextiles sub-sector]

**GEOTEXTILES**

- **Number of companies:** 40  
- **Number of counties:** 18  
- **Cluster configuration:** Durham, Mecklenburg, Wake, Guilford,  
- **Sales S (estimated):** $227,572,542  
- **Employees:** 1111  
- **Products (sample):** Polypropylene geomembranes, geosynthetic products used for soil erosion

Geotextiles ranks the lowest for sales estimates among the other sub sectors in North Carolina and includes a relatively low number of companies in comparison to other North Carolina performance industry sub-sectors. Geotextiles overlap agricultural, industrial, and environmental sub-sectors which is a possible factor for underreporting.

Although, North Carolina is currently not strong in the geotextiles subsector, opportunities for the sub-sector do exist. Economically, geotextiles provide a less expensive substitution for traditional geosynthetics materials. Additionally, with increased awareness and protection of environmental impact, North Carolina companies specializing in geotextiles will be demanded.

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   http://www.lib.NC State.edu/theses/available/etd-11222002-153849/