PADS & NAPKINS
FROM RAW MATERIALS
TO YOUR SUPERMARKET SHELF

A BRIEF HISTORY
OF THE PAD OR NAPKIN

Today pads and napkins are thinner, lighter and more effective than ever. It’s amazing to think that this product goes back to the 10th century. Early versions of the modern single-use pads were introduced in the 1920s, with adhesive strips first placed on their back in the 1980s, later followed by wings and other improvements. Today pads and napkins come in different shapes and sizes to suit the needs of all women. A woman typically uses between 5-10 pads per menstrual cycle.

HOW ARE THEY MADE?
While each brand of sanitary pads and napkins will be different, they are generally manufactured by the steps below.

RAW MATERIALS
The absorbent core in pads are made from cellulosic fibres and other absorbent materials. The materials are delivered as packs of layers and assessed to ensure they are safe for consumers.

RAW MATERIALS STORAGE
After opening packs of fibres, and during manufacturing, the fibres are kept in a controlled environment.

MAKING THE PAD
Multiple layers are used to make a pad, depending on their design or final use. Different materials, each with a specific role are layered together. Some pads may be fragranced, or may contain odour-absorbing ingredients.

ADHESIVE AND PAPER
Once the pad is made, adhesive is added to the back of the product, so that it stays in place during use. As a final step, non-stick paper is then put on top of the adhesive. Pads are either individually folded and wrapped, or flat and unwrapped.

TESTING
Different tests are carried out on samples during the manufacturing process, and on the final pads to ensure the products meet high quality and safety standards.

PACKAGING
Pads are placed in a box or bag before being sent to your local supermarket or store for purchase.