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Kickin' It Sustainable-Style With 8000Kicks Hemp Sneakers

by STEFANIE MCLEOD

If the word “hemp” conjures images of granola-crunching farmers market purveyors or a caravan of Phishheads jamming out to “Fluffhead” on repeat, you’re in for a wonderful surprise: hemp sneakers. 8000Kicks has taken what they call “the sober cousin of marijuana” and woven it into a premium fabric for sneakers that is not only eco-friendly and sustainable, but waterproof, dust-proof, and surprisingly stylish! These kicks feature recycled rubber soles and the world’s first hemp insoles and are 100% vegan (don’t worry, carnivores, you can still eat meat while wearing them).

I may not spend my weekends composting and dredging the ocean for litter, but I do like to think I’m a little more environmentally conscious than the average bear. I recycle, I drink out of reusable straws, I always cut the plastic soda rings before throwing them away (shout out to all the ducks I’ve saved), and I do my best to opt for “green” alternatives – as long as they’re also practical. Too often, these alternatives sound amazing in theory but end up lacking in execution. So, I was a little nervous about packing a pair of 8000Kicks’ Seeker shoes on my Mexico resort vacation. But between the low-key, canvas-like style, anti-bacterial and -microbial insoles, and promise of a waterproof footwear experience during hurricane season, I took the leap... and a few thousand steps.



Temperature-regulating, anti-bacterial, zero-drop comfort.

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Survey says? WORTH IT. At first, I was a little concerned the fit was too snug and would result in a blister, but in the end, they just needed a little wearing in and patience. By my second jaunt, they had already started to adapt to my foot shape and step like an old friend. The super-light material felt breathable in the humid temps, the color and design were the perfect aesthetic for my tropical vibe, and somehow, they made my size-eight-and-a-half feet look dainty for the first time since puberty. But what about the waterproof claim? Confirmed. My hair may have been frizzy and my clothes may have been soaked, but my feet stayed dry and comfortable, and the anti-slip soles saved me from taking an unplanned swim on more than one occasion.



Soaking up some casual vibes on a cloudy day.

I know what you're thinking: If they're so great, why don't they make other things that could greatly benefit from being waterproof? They do! From their [Everyday Backpack](#), [Laptop Case](#), and [Skinny Hemp Wallet](#) to their [Ankle Socks](#) and even a [Hemp Mask](#) to keep you safe and comfy (which 8000Kicks has donated to over 10,000 first responders and people in need), they've got you covered. So, if you're looking for a brand that will make you feel good while you look good and also help you do good for Mother Earth, when it comes to hemp, just say "Yes!"



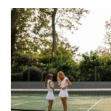
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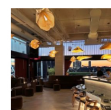
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Water rolls right off these bad boys, just like the backs of all the ducks I've saved.



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