



[Innovation](#) > [Work & Lifestyle](#) > [Bacteria powered breathable clothing](#)

## BACTERIA POWERED BREATHABLE CLOTHING



WORK & LIFESTYLE

**Tangible Media Group at MIT uses layers of bacteria that swell in the presence of humidity to create cooling vents in clothing.**

From probiotic yoghurt to a [lightbulb](#) powered by bacterial bioluminescence, the large diversity of microorganisms in the natural world have had huge benefits for humans. Researchers at MIT's [Tangible Media Group](#) have now found a way to use bacteria in clothing.

The team used *Bacillus Subtilis Natto* — the same cultures used to ferment the Japanese soybean breakfast dish — to create electronics-free 'smart' fabrics. The clothing, called bioLogic, looks like sportswear with vents spread across the back. These vents contain layers of the bacteria spread

across the body's natural heat and sweat points. The bacteria naturally swell in the presence of humidity, so that when the wearer begins to sweat, the vents open up, allowing heat to escape naturally.

With the ability to grow huge amounts of useful bacteria in labs relatively cheaply, what other industries could benefit from bacterial design?

20th November 2015

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