



Strive for 75% Fact Sheet Textiles



*Today's second-hand clothing markets are overstocked,
85% of textiles are landfilled.*

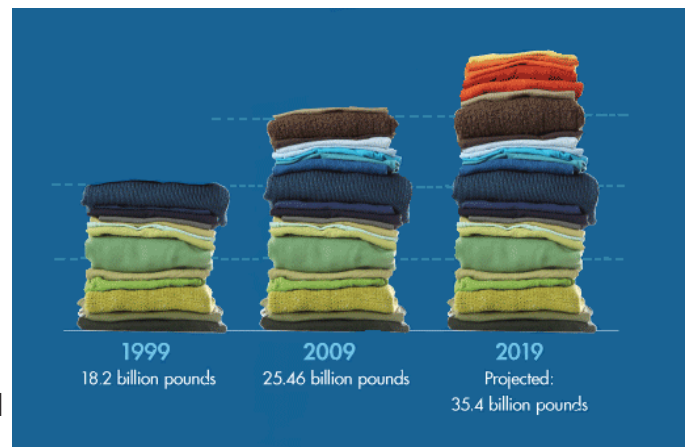
The Challenges With Textiles

The clothing industry is the second largest industrial polluter, second only to oil. Most unwanted clothing ends up in a dumpster, even though many charities have served as a repository of unused clothing for decades. In the U.S. alone, 11 million tons of textiles end up in our landfills.

How Are Chemicals and Pollution Related to Textiles?

- Synthetic textiles, such as nylon, spandex, acrylic, polyester and microfiber, are made from petroleum and undergo intensive chemical processes.
- Fabric dyes used with synthetic textiles are pollutants.
- Microfibers are shed from synthetic fabric during laundering, eventually entering waterways. These account for 85% of the human-made materials found on our shorelines threatening marine life and our food supply.

A GROWING Concern! Between 1999 and 2009 textile waste grew by 40%, while the diversion rate only increased by 2%



Council for Textile Recycling

Textiles in Missouri Landfills

A 2017 Waste Composition Study completed in 2017 by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources reported 4.8 % or 186,773 tons of municipal solid waste in Missouri landfills are textiles. Any item made from plant-based fabric like cotton or a man-made fabric like polyester is a textile.

Textile Recycling

Gently used items are desirable for thrift stores and some thrift stores also accept worn, torn and stained goods that are recycled into insulation, wiping cloths, etc. Sneakers consist of about 80% petroleum and should always be recycled.

Turning old textiles into new products saves energy, reduces water needed for growing crops, and decreases chemicals used in producing new textiles. Donations often are tax deductible.

Always call the thrift store first to verify which materials are accepted. All items must be clean and dry. Commonly accepted items include:

- Clothes/hats/belts/shoes/purses/handbags/backpacks
- Tablecloths/towels/beddings/blankets/bedsheets

Make sure that you are donating your items to a reputable charity. Websites such as charitywatch.org and charitynavigator.org may provide you with the current status and assist you with your choice.



MORA provides value by connecting people, offering industry insights, and influencing policy to support our economy and businesses in extracting the highest and best use of materials at end of life. Join and support MORA in leading the state to 75% Waste Diversion!

Details and additional textile resources at www.mora.org

Consumer Responsibility

In the last decade, clothing manufacturers have entered the “fast fashion” phase that encouraged customers to buy often. Fast fashion clothing is cheap and of poor quality, with little retail value in the textile market.

As consumer awareness increases, the truth is known that today’s textiles are often not designed to withstand wear. As a result the U.S. currently generates an average of 25 billion pounds of textiles per year and 85% of that waste is sent to the landfill.



Producer Responsibility

Clothing manufacturers are taking responsibility for their merchandise by starting a variety of recycling collection programs. Familiar names such as Levis, Patagonia, and GAP, are some of the brands leading the way.

- The North Face program, “Clothes the Loop,” accepts used clothing and footwear from any brand, even if in poor condition, and includes items from t-shirts and hats to sandals.
- Materials such as cotton and linen are most likely to be recycled. Petroleum-based fibers such as polyester have less chance for reuse.
- Some clothing brands are providing sewn-in labels with reuse and recycling instructions and in-store receptacles to recycle used clothing and footwear.
- Nike’s campaign, “REUSE-A-SHOE,” offers drop-off locations at some of their stores. Some shoes are ground up and go back into NIKE footwear and apparel while some will be under your feet as playground surfaces.

How Much Clothing Do We Need?

Visit your closet and take a count of the total number of items present and then do the same with your drawers. A count of less than 100 is good!

- Do you own too much clothing?
- Consider the amount of time, money, energy, and attention devoted to your clothes.
- Can you imagine a well-organized and uncluttered closet?

To reduce your clothing inventory, donate items that fall into three categories: **Don’t Like, Doesn’t Fit and Never Wear.** Less can be more and there are many on-line resources to help simplify your life.



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