

## Textile Recycling Facts:

- For our textile recycling drives we partner with Wearable Collections ([wearablecollections.com](http://wearablecollections.com)). Wearable Collections accepts all used clean clothing including shoes and hats. They also accept household items such as curtains, linens, towels, handbags and belts. They will even take torn, stained, or broken items. Stuffed animals too. As well as blacks, theatrical curtains, large fabric scraps, etc.
- The average New Yorker tosses 46 pounds of clothing and other textiles in the trash each year. All told, NYC residents discard 193,000 tons of textiles every year, at a cost to taxpayers and our environment.
- Textile and clothing waste makes up around 5% of our municipal waste stream. Of these items 95% can be re-used in one way or another, whether it is re-used as second hand clothing, rags or for low-grade fiber products. Recycling clothing is a way to preserve natural resources, and save municipalities the cost of dumping useful items.
- The clothing is brought to a facility where it is sorted into different grades: re-usable as second hand clothing, wiping rags, and scrap that will be shredded for low grade fiber products. The second hand clothing will be shipped to emerging markets throughout the world, and get to the final consumer cost-effectively.
  - 45% is used as apparel which is exported to developing nations, where demand for secondhand clothing is particularly high (Over 70% of the world's population uses secondhand clothes)
  - 30% of recovered textiles become wiping rags for commercial and industrial purposes
  - 20% is reprocessed into fibers for furniture stuffing, upholstery, insulation, sound proofing, carpet padding, building and other materials
  - 5% is unusable and not fit for recycling
- The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that the average person throws away 70 pounds of clothing per year. That adds up to 3.8 billion pounds of unnecessary waste added to our landfills.
- Recycling clothing and textiles decreases the use of natural resources, such as water used in growing crops and petroleum used in creating new clothing and textiles. It also decreases the need for chemicals used in manufacturing new textiles and the pollution caused by the manufacturing process.
- The U.S. textile recycling industry creates around 17,000 jobs and removes 2.5 billion pounds of post-consumer textile product from the waste stream each year.
- If you recycle your clothing and textiles: Stuffed toys and pillows become car seat stuffing and automobile insulation; T-shirts, sheets, towels, and clothing become wiping cloths; Sweaters and coats become carpet padding; Curtains and drapes become stuffing for pillows, sleeping bags, and animal beds; Wool sweaters and materials become baseball and softball filling.