

## Textile Recovery and Recycling

Did you know that approximately 95% of all used clothing, footwear and other household textile products such as sheets, towels, curtains, pillows and stuffed animals can be reused or recycled, yet only 15% of reusable textiles are recovered from the waste stream?

Contrary to popular belief, donations in any condition are welcomed by most for-profit and nonprofit textile collectors alike. This includes stains, rips, missing buttons or broken zippers. The only unacceptable donations are wet/moldy items and items contaminated with oil or hazardous substances. Items that don't sell in thrift stores are baled and sold to brokers or graders who sell to overseas markets. In developing nations, used clothing and textiles supply local enterprises with materials to repair and resell. Other textiles can be converted to their original fibers and manufactured into other materials, such as wiping cloths or insulation.

**Additional Information** [MassDEP Textile Recovery](#)

