



Town of Southwick, MA Textile Recovery Program

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), the Secondary Materials and Recycled Textiles Association (SMART), and the Council for Textile Recycling (CTR) have joined forces to encourage Massachusetts residents to drop-off unwanted clothing, footwear, linens and other textile products at collection containers or charitable organizations. **95% of all textiles are reusable or recyclable.**

Acceptable textile items for reuse and recycling include:

- Clean and dry used clothing;
- Footwear;
- Hats, gloves, scarves, handbags, duffle bags, totes, belts, and ties;
- Linens such as sheets, blankets, comforters, dishtowels, throw rugs, drapery, table linens, and placemats;
- Stuffed animals and pillows.

Textile bins can be found at the following locations in Southwick.

- **Transfer Station** - 22 Industrial Road
- **Big Y Plaza** - 187 College Highway
- **Dunkin Donuts** - 208 College Highway
- **CVS** - 215 College Highway
- **Tractor Supply** - 637 College Highway

Organizations collecting and benefiting from the recycling of textiles in town include: Pay It Forward, UpCycle Collaborative, Mothers Against Drunk Driving Connecticut, JEJ Angel Blessing, & Charity Services.

Locations that accept hard to dispose of textiles can be found using the **MassDEP Beyond the Bin Directory** url <http://recyclesearch.com/profile/ma>.



Town of Southwick, MA Textile Recovery Program (cont.)

In an era of cheap clothing, **textile waste now accounts for 6% of all solid waste going into landfills** and incinerators. According to an analysis of statewide waste composition, approximately 230,000 tons of usable clothing, footwear, linens and other textile products are thrown away annually in the state of Massachusetts.

Facts about Textile Recovery & Disposal

- Almost 95% of all used clothing, footwear, sheets, towels, curtains, pillows and stuffed animals can be reused or recycled.
- EPA reports that of the **17 million tons or 38 billion pounds of textiles discarded** by American households each year
- **Only 15% or 2.3 million tons are recovered for reuse and recycling**
- Diverting textiles from the waste stream can significantly **reduce green house gas emissions**. Nationwide recycling of 2.3 million tons of clothing each year is equivalent to removing 1.3 million cars annually from the nation's highways.

When you donate textiles, **95% of the textile products are either reused or recycled.**

- About **45% of the textiles are reused and sold as second hand apparel**, either through charitable organizations such as the Salvation Army and Goodwill Industries; or by for-profit exporters that sell baled clothing to developing countries.
- About **30% of donated textiles are converted to industrial wiping cloths** for use primarily in the automotive and public works industries.
- **20% of the donated textiles are sent to fiber conversion companies** where textiles are broken down into their basic fiber components to be remanufactured into insulation for automobiles and homes, or used in the manufacture of carpet padding and sound-proofing material.
- **Only 5% of donated textiles end up in landfills** or incinerators, either because the textile is wet and mildewed, or stained with a hazardous solvent such as gasoline.

If you have any questions, contact the Southwick DPW at 413-569-6772.