

REDUCING

# CLOTHES & TEXTILE WASTE

Households in the UK throw away around 336,000 tonnes (£140 million worth) of our unwanted clothing and textiles annually, a shocking statistic when you realise almost all of this waste is going straight to landfill.



For many the changing of the seasons throughout the year inevitably impacts our clothing choices. The coats and jumpers will help keep you warm in the winter, but soon get dismissed as the weather changes in spring-summer. This is where the influx of waste occurs, getting rid of clothing that is no longer in season.

Baby clothing is one of the biggest types of clothing waste that is sent to landfill. As children grow out of clothes, they are quick to get disposed of despite their usually great condition. Many people get rid of the clothing their children have grown out of to make room for more fitting outfits, these outgrown items get sent to landfill.

Style changes are ever changing, as the fashion changes as does many of our styles, leading to us having clear-outs of many clothing that no longer fit our aesthetic. Usually due to ease, these items are put into the general waste to make room for the newer styles.

Other forms of textile waste such as bedding, towels, curtains etc are usually see an influx when we do home renovations. Whether this is moving house, or even just re-decorating, we usually change the style of our rooms leaving the textiles used previously now un-matched to the new style. With these items being replaced, there is now no longer a need for them and sadly they usually end up into general waste to be sent to landfill.

## Donate

One man's trash is another man's treasure! A clothing item that may no longer fit you or be to your taste may be ideal for somebody else.

Take your clothes to charity shops or textile recycling bins and units to help recycle such items, a new owner gives them a new lease of life.

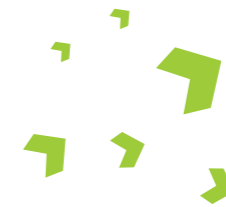
This isn't just limited to clothes, non-clothing waste such as curtains can also be taken to charity shops to be re-homed.



## Sell

Many of our clothes that get thrown away are actually in perfect condition, meaning it would be a great shame to see them in landfill. Why not sell your textile waste that is in good condition and re-home the item whilst also earning yourself some cash.

There are so many selling outlets online, as well as via car-boot sales where you can make some money from the clothing and textiles you no longer require.



## Repair

One of the main reasons we dispose of clothing and textiles is wear and tear. The first sign of any damage and the clothing goes straight into the waste bins, even though it can often be very easily repaired.

There are many upholstery repair companies for clothing, shoes and other textiles that will take your damaged items and return them looking as good as new. You can also often repair a lot of these issues yourself with a simple needle and thread. This will save buying new items, whilst also keeping it out of the rubbish bins.



## REJUVENATE

Get creative with your unwanted or unneeded textiles and make something new out of your old clobber.

There are many handy videos online showcasing how you can turn unwanted clothing into pieces of art and other soft furnishings.

Up-cycling is a new craze that has taken over the nation and up-cycling textiles is a newfound hobby for many people.