

It Makes Sense to Recycle!

Read the article.

Did you know that textiles can be recycled? **Textiles** are items made from cloth or **artificial** fabrics like vinyl. The average person throws away about 70 pounds of clothing a year. How much textile trash is that? It's a whopping 21 billion pounds of waste. Clothes that are not recycled end up in landfills. They can take hundreds of years to break down, or **decompose**. Some of these trashed textiles may release harmful substances into the soil and water.

What happens when textiles are recycled? Recycling textiles reduces the use of natural resources. For example, fewer natural resources like water and petroleum are used to create new clothing and textiles. Another benefit is that fewer chemicals are needed when we recycle textiles instead of manufacturing new ones. Plus recycling textiles decreases pollution caused by manufacturing new clothes. In fact, the 2 million tons of textiles that are recycled each year in the US are equivalent to removing 1 million cars from America's highways!

Textiles can be recycled in many ways. You can donate used clothing to a charity. These clothes are then sold or sent to other countries that can use them. Even old towels, stained clothing, and torn textiles can be recycled. So donate your items to a recycling center or charity. When you recycle textiles, you get a cleaner, greener Earth in return!

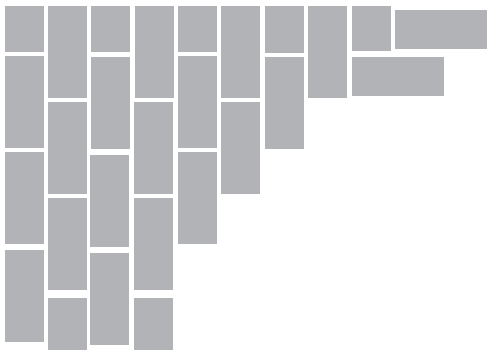


Write your answers on another sheet of paper. Use evidence from the text to support your answers.

1. According to the text, what does the term *textile* mean?
2. How many pounds of clothing does the average person throw away each year?
3. What do you think the word *artificial* means? Tell how you know.
4. According to the text, what does the word *decompose* mean?
5. Name two benefits of recycling textiles.
6. Summarize why textile recycling is important for a greener Earth. Use details from the text.

Recycling Rangers Tip

Charities raise \$100 million per year from the sale of secondhand clothing. What an easy way to make a contribution—without spending any extra money! The next time you're cleaning out your closet, remember that fact. Tell your family you want to donate old clothing instead of throwing it in the trash.



Answer Key
“It Makes Sense to Recycle!”

1. A textile is any item made from cloth or artificial fabrics.
2. about 70 pounds
3. produced by humans
4. to break down
5. Possible answers include decreasing use of natural resources, decreasing the use of chemicals in manufacturing new textiles, reducing pollution from manufacturing new textiles.
6. Summaries will vary but should include details from the text.