

donate recycle don't throw away®



Textile: A textile is any item made from cloth or an artificial fabric like vinyl. Textiles are used for clothing, linens, bedding, upholstery, curtains, carpets, and other items.

Ready to Recycle!

Vocabulary

Help students gain a real-life understanding of the word *recycle*. To begin, ask each student to write or dictate a definition of *recycle*. After sharing several definitions, read the definition shown. Encourage students to give examples that describe each part of the definition. For example, when stained T-shirts are recycled, they are given a new purpose as rags for cleaning, wiping, and polishing. When a wool sweater is recycled, it is turned into carpet padding. Share other examples of clothing and textile recycling as listed on the Textile Recycling Fact sheet or in the box below. After the class discussion, have each student divide a sheet of paper in half. On each half of the paper, have her write about a different aspect of the word *recycle*, encouraging students to think about clothing and textiles as well as other recyclables. Instruct students to give several examples of why the materials are well-suited for their new purpose and add illustrations. Display the finished products along with the title "Recycling in Many Ways!"

Teacher tip: Schedule a clothing drive at your school. Contact local charities to arrange pickup for the items collected, or contact SMART for a textile recycler near you that can make a donation to your school in exchange for the textiles you collect! Visit www.smartasn.org to find textile recycling options in your area.

Recycle: to pass through a series of changes; to put through a change to use again; to adapt to a new use

I can recycle this old stuffed animal. It will be changed so it can be used as car seat stuffing. Stuffed animals are fluffy and soft, so they make comfortable seats.



What are specific textiles recycled into?

Here are a few examples:

- Stuffed toys and pillows become car seat stuffing and automobile insulation
- T-shirts, sheets, towels, and clothing become wiping rags
- Denim becomes home insulation
- Shoe soles become paving material
- 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
- Velvet materials become jewelry box lining
- Scraps from clothing manufacturers become money