

donate recycle don't throw away®



What's Recyclable?

Activating prior knowledge, writing to inform

In advance, collect a variety of common recyclable materials, such as glass jars, aluminum cans, and newspapers. Also gather some textile items (scroll down). Invite students to peruse the items and sort them into two groups: *recyclable* and *not recyclable*. After the sort is complete, take all the items and move them into the *recyclable* pile. Explain to students that many clothing and household textiles are recyclable too, and brainstorm ways that they could be reused.

Display the list of textile items (scroll down) and ask each child to choose one item from the list. (Have younger students work in small groups.) Each child should draw a picture of the item and write a description of how the item could be recycled or reused. Be sure students explain in their writing that even worn, torn, or stained items can be recycled. Encourage each child to include at least two facts in her writing. When complete, display your class's work so other students, teachers, and parents can learn more about textile recycling. Share some basic facts about clothing and textile recycling from the Textile Recycling Fact Sheet (scroll down) and write these on the board.

Teacher tip: Share the book *Something From Nothing*, by Phoebe Gilman, which follows a piece of fabric as it goes from being a baby blanket to a jacket to a vest to a tie, and so on. Then challenge students to create their own list of items that could have been made along the way.



Don't throw away your old T-shirts. Donate or recycle them! If they are still in good shape, someone else can wear them. If they have a tear or stain, they can be turned into rags. Too many T-shirts and other items made from cloth go to landfills when they could be reused. We don't have to make new clothing when we can use old items again!

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Recycling textiles is the smart thing to do. Below is a list of items that can be recycled. Remember that items in any condition (**worn, torn, or stained**) can all be recycled. All items should be clean and dry.

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| Bedding: comforter,
sheets, pillowcases,
blankets | Pillows |
| Belts | Purses |
| Boots | Scarves |
| Coats | Shirts |
| Curtains/Draperies | Shoes (single or in pairs) |
| Dresses | Shorts |
| Flip-flops | Skirts |
| Halloween costumes | Slippers |
| Hats | Socks (single or in pairs) |
| Jackets | Stuffed animals |
| Jeans | Suits |
| Jerseys | Sweaters |
| Napkins (cloth) | Sweatpants |
| Pajamas | Sweatshirts |
| Pants | Table linens |
| Pet clothing | Ties |
| | Towels |
| | T-shirts |