

SECOND TIME AROUND: SUSTAINABILITY & STYLE

REDUCE YOUR IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH THE CLOTHES YOU WEAR
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DID YOU KNOW....

- In the U.S. approximately 13.1 million tons of textile waste is generated every year.
- The EPA estimates that about 5% of a household's waste stream is made up of clothing and textiles.
- In 2010, only about 15% or 2 million tons, was recovered and recycled.⁽¹⁾

The environmental impact of clothing is reliant on a number of factors, but I would like to bring attention to an effective way consumer can help reduce the amount of clothing entering the U.S. waste stream: Buy clothing secondhand.



REASONS TO BUY SECONDHAND

- Save money! Secondhand clothing is usually cheaper than buying new clothes.
- Shopping at consignment stores is more popular than ever, The Association of Resale Professionals reports that 16 - 18% of Americans will shop at a thrift store during a given year, compared to 11.4% at factory outlet malls, 19.6% in apparel stores and 21.3% in major department stores.⁽²⁾
- It displaces the need to manufacture new clothes, which demands water, dyes, fixatives and petroleum inputs.

- Slow Style is a reaction to the rapid production and turnover rate of today's fashion industry.
- Slow Style followers create a wardrobe that suits them as individuals and is better for the environment through the mindful shopping of ethically sourced new items and resale/vintage articles.



Bales of used clothing at a rag grading facility.
Photo: Whitehouse and Shapiro

"If we think of a hierarchy of ethical ways of dressing, vintage should be near the top. It is the antithesis of throwaway fashion...." Lucy Siegle, The Observer. March 15, 2013

REDUCE

- Reduce the amount of clothing you buy—Opt for Quality over Quantity
- Save energy by washing your clothes using Hi-Efficiency, Cold Water detergent and hang your clothes to dry—4 to 5% of a household's electricity is used by the clothes dryer!⁽³⁾

REUSE

- If something is no longer wearable, convert it into a rag that can be used in lieu of paper towels to clean up messes.
- If you are handy with a sewing machine, clothing materials can be re-purposed into bags, hats, mitts, quilts—whatever you can imagine!

RECYCLE

- Donate your unwanted clothing to a charity like the Salvation Army or Goodwill.
- About 93% of all textile waste diverted to recycling is reclaimed: 35% as used clothing, 33% as reprocessed fibers (filler in cars and upholstery, insulation, etc.), 25% is converted to cloth wipes and only 7% to landfill.⁽⁴⁾

3 Common Clothing Materials

COTTON



Cotton covers 2.5% of the world's cultivated land yet uses 16% of the world's insecticides, more than any other single major crop⁽⁵⁾ It can take almost a 1/3 pound of synthetic fertilizers to grow one pound of raw cotton in the US, and it takes just under one pound of raw cotton to make one t-shirt.⁽⁶⁾



POLYESTER

A petroleum product that is the most widely manufactured fiber.⁽⁶⁾



RAYON

A manufactured fiber made out of cellulose but is not considered a natural fiber because its creation releases so many toxic chemicals, including carbon disulfide, carbonyl sulfide, ethylene oxide, methanol, methyl chloride, propylene oxide, and toluene.⁽⁷⁾

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