

Cut Down Waste Repurpose Instead!

A Guide to Textile Recycling

West Boylston Solid Waste Advisory Team (SWAT)
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The Situation...And Why You Should Care

- Each American gets rid of 80 lbs of clothing per year
- In MA, residents and businesses throw away more than 250,000 tons of textiles and apparel each year.
 - 95 percent of this textile waste could have been readily recovered for productive reuse instead of being put in landfills or incinerated.
- West Boylston incurs a cost of \$79 per ton for solid waste tip fees.
- In general municipalities and businesses pay about \$16 million to send textiles to landfills and waste combustors.
 - Putting textiles in your trash could mean higher costs for trash and recycling to the town.

What Textiles Can be Recycled?

- Clothing, scarves, hats, gloves
- Sheets, blankets, pillowcases, towels, tablecloths, curtains
- Shoes, socks, belts, backpacks
- Stuffed animals
 - All these items are okay even if ripped, stained, missing buttons, broken zippers, holes, etc.
 - **Have to be dry and reasonably clean**



Misconceptions...and Solutions

- I thought donated clothing and textiles had to be in good condition...
 - As long as items aren't wet, moldy, or soaked in oil or hazardous materials, they can go in donation bag.
 - FYI: Torn or stained items that can't be resold are baled and sold on the global commodities market or consumed locally by textile converters to make wiping rags or insulation and padding products.

Textile Collection Bin Locations & Other Resources

- West Boylston High School
- Surfside Pools, West Boylston
- Xpress Stop, West Boylston
- The Mill Restaurant, West Boylston
- Rota Springs



- Find out where to donate and reuse other items at Mass DEP: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/donation-reuse#household-items->
- Check out Earth911 - More Ideas, Less Waste: <https://earth911.com/>
- Recycle Smart: <https://recyclesmartma.org/>

WWRRC Information and Resources

Wachusett Watershed Regional Recycling Center (WWRRC) has textile collection bins and this handy guide to other options:

- [Bay State Textiles](#) accepts a wide variety of textiles in any condition as long as they're clean, dry and odor-free
- [Epilepsy Foundation New England](#) accepts clean, wearable clothing
- [Goodwill Worcester](#)
- [Mustard Seed](#) sleeping bags, pillows, bags, blankets
- [Salvation Army](#) textiles to recycle and usable clothing/shoes/accessories
- [Veteran's Inc.](#) men's clothing/shoes, travel sized unopened toiletries
- [Worcester Animal Shelter](#) bedding, comforters, blankets & towels (not sheets)
- [Sterling Animal Shelter](#)
- [NEADS Assistance Dogs](#) petware, blankets etc.

Thank You for Caring!

- Each one of us can make a difference for future generations to leave them a healthy environment in which to live.
- We hope that this information is helpful and encourage you to contact SWAT with any additional ideas or comments:

<https://www.westboylston-ma.gov/solid-waste-and-recycling/solid-waste-advisory-team-swat/webforms/contact-swat>

