

# DISCARDING TEXTILES

Do's  
&  
Don'ts



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# INTRODUCTION

The textile industry has a high environmental impact, whether it is through the production of the fibres, the processes of making a fabric or textile product, or the use of the final product (e.g. washing, drying, or ironing). In the context of global climate change, it is more important than ever to ensure that the amount of energy we put into the textile industry is not wasted. A simple way to conserve energy in the industry cycle is to use one's textile products for as long as possible. Of course, there may also be times where you no longer want to keep the product. In cases like these, you have several options for prolonging the use of the product (and the materials from which it's made) to reduce the environmental impact. Here are a few easy ways to extend the life of your textiles (while also helping people and the planet).

## REUSE

There are a lot of ways you can reuse old textiles. You could, for instance, give old pieces away to friends; organise a closet sale at home; or sell your old clothing on places like Marktplaats, Vinted and other apps. Alternatively, you could discard your old items at one of the many textile containers in the city (this is the most anonymous way to give your textile product a second life). If you do choose to discard your textile products at one of these containers, they will then be collected, sorted, and (if they are in a reasonable condition) used again. Do not, however, throw away textile products in a waste container. If you do, the fabric will be incinerated, and everything invested in the material will be gone forever!

## REPAIR

If your textile is damaged, you might be able to repair it yourself. A missing button, for instance, can be replaced quite easily. More difficult repairs, like replacing a broken zipper, can be done at one of the numerous tailoring or alterations shops in Amsterdam. Alterations shops also often repair things like torn trousers and holey sweaters. If you're feeling adventurous, however, you can also find beautiful DIY solutions for these problems on YouTube.

## REFURBISH

Another option to prolong the life of a garment is to make something creative from a textile product you no longer want or need. There are many examples of creative upcycling on the internet. You could, for example, turn your old jeans in a shopping bag, make them into a denim rug or use them to upholster a chair. With upcycling, the possibilities for customisation are endless. For inspiration, use your favourite search engine or services like Pinterest to look up crafts using old clothing.

## SECONDHAND

To make the most impact, don't stop at donating your old clothing items—buy secondhand items yourself! You can find plenty of great pieces at vintage and secondhand shops, or by searching Marktplaats and other apps. By buying secondhand textile products, you reduce your personal environmental impact considerably.

# TEXTILE CONTAINERS

If you must discard your textile product, please drop them in a textile container. There are plenty of these containers in the City of Amsterdam. Locations can be found [HERE](#).

When disposing of textile products, please remember these rules:

- the item must be dry and clean
- the item should be in a plastic bag (so it stays dry and clean and won't become contaminated by other products that don't belong in the container)
- the item should not be too bulky

## WHAT CAN BE DISPOSED OF IN A TEXTILE CONTAINER?

- clothing (even if it is worn out or broken)
- household textiles (e.g. towels, tea towels, etc.)
- sheets and blankets
- fabrics and knitting yarns
- curtains
- shoes (but please attach them in pairs)
- bags and accessories
- hats and caps
- cuddly toys

## WHAT CAN'T BE DISPOSED OF IN A TEXTILE CONTAINER?

- duvets and quilts
- mattresses
- pillows
- carpets
- textiles soiled with oil and paint
- non-textile waste like: vegetables, (rotten) fruit, meat (and meat bones), diapers, food packaging, glass, etc.

*Please be aware that it only takes a tiny amount of waste to spoil the entire contents of a textile container. With your help, we can realise a circular textile economy and reduce our environmental impact.*

**Your textiles deserve a second life!**

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TONS/YEAR

AMSTERDAM  
DISCARDED  
TEXTILE

#facts&figures