

Textile Recovery

Textiles will no longer be allowed for curbside trash collection due to the updated MassDEP waste ban which requires textiles to be recycled.

About the waste ban:

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) has made amendments to its waste ban regulations which includes the banning of textiles from the trash stream and requiring them to be recycled. MassDEP's 2030 Solid Waste Master Plan establishes goals to reduce trash disposal statewide by 30 percent (from 5.7 million tons in 2018 to 4 million tons in 2030) over the next decade. Among its strategies for reaching these objectives, MassDEP will expand its current waste disposal bans by adding textiles to the list of materials banned from disposal or transport for disposal in Massachusetts. "Textiles" includes clothing, footwear, accessories, and linens.



What to do with your old textiles:

Most textile collectors will accept clothing, footwear, linens, and accessories for donation in any condition as long as items are clean, dry, and odorless. This includes items with stains, rips, missing buttons or broken zippers. *No wet/moldy items or items contaminated with oil or hazardous substances will be accepted.*



See pages 2-4 for more details on the following options for getting rid of old textiles:

- Donate textiles to charity in store or in drop-off bins throughout Town
- Check with local animal shelters as they are often in need of linens and bedding
- Check with local schools and churches
- Bring or mail clothing and shoes to stores or manufacturers that accept them for recycling through take-back programs

Learn more about [textile recovery in Massachusetts](#) or use the [Beyond the Bin Recycling Directory](#) to find out where to recycle, reuse, or re-purpose your textiles.

Donation Options:



Retailers who ACCEPT items with holes, stains, rips, missing buttons or broken zippers:

No wet/moldy items or items contaminated with oil or hazardous substances.

- [Planet Aid](#) (Milford, MA) — Clothing, shoes, bedding, towels, curtains **501(c)**
- [Helpsy](#) — Clothing, shoes, accessories, linens — drop-off bins at Sanborn, West Elementary, Bancroft, Temple Emmanuel, Project Home Again

Retailers who DO NOT ACCEPT items with holes, stains, rips, missing buttons or broken zippers:

- [Project Home Again](#) (Andover, MA) — Bed sheets, comforters/ blankets/ duvet inserts and covers, shower curtains, towels **501(c)**
- [Andover Thrift Shop](#) — Gently used clothes, in style, in season; bedspreads, linens, sheets, towels
- [Ruth's House](#) (Haverhill, MA) — Clothes, sheets, towels, curtains, throw pillows **501(c)**
- [Lazarus House](#) (Lawrence, MA) — Clothes, shoes, accessories, towels, bedding, pillows (new only) **501(c)**
- [Epilepsy Foundation](#) (Wilmington, MA) — Clothes, shoes, belts, ties, purses, draperies, linens, bedding, towels **501(c)**
- [The Wish Project](#) (Lowell, MA) — Clean casual clothes, shoes, coats, belts, bras, socks, and baby clothing; Clean sheets, comforters (not down), quilts, blankets, towels (worn is okay) **501(c)**
- [Vietnam Veterans of America](#) — Clothing, shoes, accessories, bedding. Schedule a pickup online **501(c)**
- [SSVP](#) — Drop off clean, usable clothes in a drop-off bin or to one of their thrift stores in either Lawrence or Lowell **501(c)**
- [Big Brother Big Sister](#) — Clothing of all sizes and seasons, night clothes & robes, shoes, boots, slippers, sneakers, household items. Schedule a **FREE pickup** on their website. **501(c)**
- [Goodwill](#) — Gently used clothes; shoes; accessories including belts, handbags, hats, jewelry, and scarves; backpacks; bags; luggage **501(c)**
- [Salvation Army](#) — Acceptable items may vary among stores. Contact your local Salvation Army for more information **501(c)**
- [Savers](#) — Savers accepts donations on behalf of local nonprofits. Find a store near you on their website
- [GotSneakers?](#) — Get paid to recycle your old sneakers

More information can be found on retailers' websites. The Town of Andover does not contract with nor make recommendations for any companies or organizations listed on this page. The list is solely a resource for the residents and is subject to change without notice.

Animal shelters, hospitals, day cares, and veterinarians:

Check with local animal shelters, hospitals, day cares, and veterinarians as they are often in need of linens, bedding and other textiles. Below are some suggestions of local animal shelters. Call for more information on acceptable items.

- [MSPCA at Nevins Farm](#) (Methuen, MA) 501(c)
- [Salem Animal Rescue League](#) (Salem, NH) 501(c)
- [Lowell Humane Society](#) (Lowell, MA) 501(c)



Schools and churches:

Public and private schools, as well as churches, often have drop-off boxes and/or hold clothing drives seasonally or year round. Check with local schools and churches for more information.



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Brand-Specific Recycling Programs:

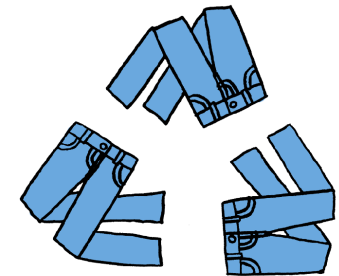
Considerations before recycling old clothing: **1.)** Can you sell, swap, or sew it? The most sustainable option for clothing is keeping it in its current state. **2.)** Explore other options like the [Everything is Free Andover](#) Facebook page and [Buy Nothing](#) Facebook groups. **3.)** Look at WHERE the recycled garments are going. It is worth doing some research and/or contacting the organization to see how they handle those recycled clothes. With that being said, the following brands have textile recycling programs for old clothing. More information can be found on retailers' websites.

- [Patagonia](#) — Accepts used Patagonia clothing in good condition to be resold or recycled into new clothes, in exchange for a credit towards your next purchase
- [REI](#) — Accepts used outdoor gear and apparel in good condition to be resold in exchange for an REI gift card
- [The North Face](#) — Accepts gently used clothes in exchange for a coupon. Partnered with [Soles4Souls](#), a nonprofit that provides disaster relief and micro-enterprise programs, and creates sustainable jobs through the distribution of shoes and clothing
- [Eileen Fisher](#) — Mail in or bring your Eileen Fisher clothes in store and receive \$5 in Renew Rewards for each piece you return, no matter what condition it's in
- [Zara](#) — Accepts any kind of clothing or fabrics to be recycled into new fabric, or to be converted into construction or automotive materials
- [H&M](#) — Accepts clothes in any condition. Drop off in store and receive an H&M coupon. Wearable clothes are marketed as secondhand clothing. If the clothes or textiles are not suitable for re-wear, they're turned into other products, such as remake collections or cleaning cloths. All other clothes and textiles are shredded into textile fibers and used to make, for example, insulation materials.

Denim Recycling

The following brands have partnered with [Blue Jeans Go Green](#). They accept jeans of any brand to be recycled into housing insulation. Some can be exchanged for a cash reward towards a new pair.

[American Eagle](#) (\$10 reward) • [Madewell](#) (\$20 reward) • [Levi's](#)



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