

The Scrap Recycling Industry: Textiles

The textile segment of the recycling industry processes billions of pounds of **cotton, wool, synthetic and synthetic-blend products** each year. These scrap materials come from a number of sources, ranging from apparel and home furnishing manufacturers, to textile mills and consumers.

Each year, 2 million tons of textiles recovered from individuals (post-consumer) and manufacturers (pre-consumer) are recycled as **new raw materials for the automotive, furniture, mattress, coarse yarn, home furnishings, paper, and other industries**. This translates to about 12 lbs. of textiles per person in the United States.

Used clothing collected from households is graded into a number of categories. Garments in good condition are exported for resale in parts of the world where new clothing is not affordable for many. **This trade provides employment** not only among the exporting nations, but also in the importing countries.



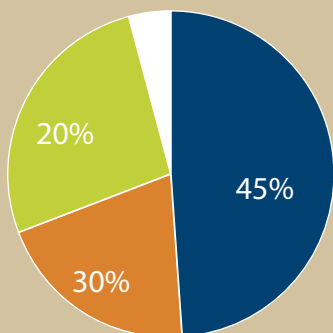
The United States exported \$667 million of used textiles and clothing in 2017.



Institute of
Scrap Recycling
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Voice of the Recycling Industry

THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY



- About 45 percent is secondhand clothing, which is typically exported to developing nations.
- Approximately 30 percent is processed into wiping and polishing cloths.
- About 20 percent is converted into fiber to be used in products ranging from stationery and mattresses to roofing and flooring materials.
- About 5 percent Other

