

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

In 2019 Californians threw away 6.7 pounds of trash every day, more than 2200 pounds every year, more than the weight of a subcompact car! These individual results are more than double California's goal of 2.7 pounds per person per day. 25% of our trash is generated between Thanksgiving and New Year's! The problem we face is that so much of our trash doesn't decompose.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TRASH TO DECOMPOSE IN A LANDFILL

*time varies depending on the conditions of the landfill

- Plastic bottles: 70-450 years
- Plastic bag: 500-1000 years
- Tin can: around 50 years
- Leather shoes: 25-40 years
- Thread: 3-4 months
- Cotton: 1-5 months
- Rope: 3-14 months
- Cigarette: 1-12 years
- Milk packet (tetra) covers and drink packets: 5 years
- Nylon clothes: 30-40 years
- Sanitary napkins & children's diapers: 500-800 years
- Glass bottles: 1,000,000 years
- Hairspray bottle: 200-500 years
- Fishing line: 600 years.
- Aluminum can: 200 years

Source: <https://www.down2earthmaterials.ie/2013/02/14/decompose/>

HOW LONG UNTIL IT'S GONE?

Estimated decomposition rates of common marine debris items



Estimated individual item timelines depend on product composition and environmental conditions.

Source: NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), US / Woods Hole Sea Grant, US
Graphics: Oliver Luder / Museum für Gestaltung Zürich, 2016

TEXTILE WASTE

That means everything from your jeans to your favorite duvet to the cloth seat covers in your car. And they make a HUGE amount of waste! Let's look at some numbers:

- North Americans send more than 11 million tons of clothing to landfills every year!
- More than 95% of that waste is either reusable or recyclable.
- The global textile industry uses One Trillion (that's 1,000,000,000,000) kilowatt hours every year. That equals 10% of the total global carbon impact!
- The average person throws away 81-½ pounds of textiles every year.
- The fashion industry uses 79 million cubic meters of freshwater every year. Predictions say that amount will jump 50% by the end of the decade.
- How much water does it take to manufacture one t-shirt? Believe it or not, about 27 bathtubs full - that's more than 713 gallons!
- In the year 2000, the garment industry produced about 50 billions items of clothing. In 2018, that total grew to about 100 billion!

STOP BEFORE YOU SHOP

ASK YOURSELF:

Do I need it?

Do I need it new?

Can I buy it used?

Can I buy it locally?

What is it made of?

Was it ethically produced?

What happens when I no longer want it?

Can it be reused? repaired? recycled? composted?

REDUCE TEXTILE WASTE

<https://www.roadrunnerwm.com/blog/textile-waste-environmental-crisis>

RECYCLING PROGRAMS

- **Patagonia.** Recycle Patagonia gear. <https://wornwear.patagonia.com/>
- **NorthFace:** Recycle your gently-used apparel and footwear. <https://www.thenorthface.com/about-us/responsibility/product/clothes-the-loop.html>
- **H&M** drop off textiles old or new, **from any brand..** According to H&M, the brand collected 20,649 tons of textiles for reuse and recycling in 2018, 16% more than the previous year and equivalent to **103 million T-shirts**
- **Ecoalf** has taken over 500 tons of waste from the bottom of the ocean, recycled over 120 million plastic bottles, and developed over 300 fabrics and turned them into top quality garments.
- **Madewell:** Drop off your worn jeans. <https://www.madewell.com/inspo-do-well-denim-recycling-landing.html>

BUY USED: extends a garment's life by about two years, which cuts its combined carbon, waste, and water footprint by 82%. (ThredUp) Some resources: Thredup, Poshmark, Goodwill, Salvation Army, Nearly New, Savers. Some will recycle what doesn't sell.

RENT YOUR CLOTHING: RenttheRunway.com

RECYCLE STUFF

November 9, 2021

Recycle Stuff Org: Provides information on how to recycle in Santa Clara and San Mateo County
<https://www.recyclestuff.org/index>

Habitat for Humanity: Accepts small and large donations of new or gently used furniture, appliances, housewares, building materials and more. <https://www.habitat.org/restores/donate-goods>

Resource Area for Teachers (RAFT): accepts some supplies that can be used in classroom kits for students. <https://raft.net/how-you-can-help/donate-materials/>

Terracycle.com: Provides waste boxes you can purchase and send them your waste to recycle <https://zerowasteboxes.terracycle.com/> **AND** provides information on more than 100 special programs <https://www.terracycle.com/en-US/brigades> for cosmetics (return to Nordstrom), contact lenses, BIC pens, crayons and markers, solo cups, and more. Imagine, you can even recycle used chewing gum and cigarette detritus!

Recycle contact lenses, blister packs and cases drop off at a location near you. They also accept all other brands. <https://www.bausch.com/our-company/the-one-by-one-recycling-program-faqs>

Oral B/Crest: You can send in all brands used oral care products including toothbrushes, brush heads, toothpaste tubes, mouthwash containers, floss containers, floss string, and floss picks. Get a mailing label and details here: <https://oralb.com/en-us/recycling/>