



ENVIRONMENTAL LOOKOUT: TEXTILES AND TRASH DON'T MIX!

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Gone are the days when only “gently used” clothes are recycled. Instead, based on a November 2022 Massachusetts law, it is now illegal to discard *any textiles* in the trash. That’s right -- even if you have a single sock, ripped blankets, frayed towels, holey sneakers, or a teddy bear missing one ear, they all must now be recycled.

For the purpose of this law, just what is meant by “textiles”? As you can see from the above examples, it’s a whole lot broader than you might think. Based on information from the SMART website, www.smartasn.org, the following items can and must now be recycled and NOT thrown away:

- Bedding (even for pets): Blankets, Comforters, Pillows, Sheets
- Clothing: Coats, Dresses, Costumes, Jackets, Jeans, Pajamas, Pants, Shirts, Shorts, Skirts, Suits, Sweaters, Sweatpants, Sweatshirts, T-Shirts, Undergarments
- Clothing Accessories: Hats, Purses, Scarves, Ties
- Footwear: Boots, Flip flops, Sandals, Shoes, Slippers, Socks
- Household: Curtains, Draperies, Napkins (cloth), Placemats, Table Linens, Towels
- Stuffed Animals (for your child or pet)

As long as they are clean and dry, out of your trash bag and into the recycling bin they must go.

In looking at this list one might ask, what will happen to all that donated stuff? Again, according to the SMART folks, almost 100% can be put to good use since an estimated 45% is reusable clothing, 30% is wiping cloth grade, and 20% is fiber conversion grade. What that means for your non-saleable items is that your frayed towel or stained tee shirt might be converted to wiping cloths, and your lone sock or teddy bear might become car seat stuffing.

The Mashpee Environmental Coalition recently partnered with Catherine Laurent of Mashpee’s Department of Public Works in designing materials aimed at educating residents about this law and helping to keep textiles out of the trash. This year when Mashpee residents picked up their new Transfer Station sticker at Town Hall, a one-page information sheet was available on this relatively new mandate. And a sandwich board sign at the Transfer Station now points residents to the clothing recycling bins for the placement of clothes and other textiles.

For residents and visitors who do not use the Transfer Station, all items listed above can be deposited in clothing donation bins found on a number of properties across town and Cape Cod. Plus, a Textile Recycling Drive will take place on Saturday, August 19, from 9am to 1pm at Mashpee High School, 500 Old Barnstable Road, at the same time as the Barnstable County Upper Cape Household Hazardous Waste Collection event – where Bay State Textiles will be on-site to take all unwanted textiles off your hands. As Upper Cape residents help keep household hazardous waste products out of our waters, they can also help keep textiles out of our trash!

So, if you've been hesitant about cleaning out your closets because you just didn't know what to do with all your threadbare sheets, outdated scarves, worn slippers, or stained shirts, hesitate no more. Now you know that, once donated, they will all be put to good use.

On behalf of our organization and the Mashpee DPW, thank you for keeping your textiles – all of them – out of the trash!

Irene Checkovich and Arden Russell are board members of the Mashpee Environmental Coalition, www.mashpeemec.us, www.Facebook.com/MashpeeEnvironmentalCoalition



It's now the LAW!!!

RECYCLE ALL TEXTILES at the Transfer Station

Even if **WORN, TORN, STAINED**, or **ONE of a PAIR**, as long as it's **CLEAN** and **DRY**, place in **ANY BIN** for reuse or recycling:

- **Bedding** (even for pets): Blankets, Comforters, Pillows, Sheets
- **Clothing**: Coats, Dresses, Costumes, Jackets, Jeans, Pajamas, Pants, Shirts, Shorts, Skirts, Suits, Sweaters, Sweatpants, Sweatshirts, T-Shirts, Undergarments
- **Clothing Accessories**: Hats, Purses, Scarves, Ties
- **Footwear**: Boots, Flip flops, Sandals, Shoes, Slippers, Socks
- **Household**: Curtains, Draperies, Napkins (cloth), Placemats, Table Linens, Towels
- **Stuffed Animals** (for your child or pet)

Co-Sponsored by the Mashpee Environmental Coalition and Mashpee Department of Public Works



CLOTHING & TEXTILE COLLECTION EVENT

SPONSORED BY:
Mashpee Environmental Coalition

EVENT INFO:

Saturday, August 19th	Mashpee Middle-High School 500 Old Barnstable Road	9AM-1PM
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ACCEPTED ITEMS (IN ANY CONDITION):

- Clothing
- Shoes
- Accessories (scarves, bags, hats, etc.)
- Household linens
- Stuffed animals

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS:

- Foam products
- Mattresses
- Couch/Lawn Cushions
- Carpet Remnants
- Rugs larger than 2' x 4'

ALL ITEMS MUST BE DRY & BAGGED

REUSE, REDUCE, RECYCLE

Support your local community...

