



The textile industry is incredibly complex, and the issues surrounding textile waste impacts us all. We need to untangle these issues, one thread at a time. Personal stories are woven into this knotted mess and the only way to help people, and make a change is to begin to untangle these problems. Using second hand items and scrap material is one great way to demonstrate a way we can make a difference, by repairing and giving these textile items a new lease of life. We would love for you to incorporate tangles and methods of repair into your design as you transform the items from something unwanted to something beautiful.

In addition to the clothes donated from the Wardrobe Foundation, you can also use other materials and mediums such as, weaving, patchwork, knotting, pom poms, darning, stitch, text etc. Considering our clothes cannot be recycled, think about the additional materials you use and where they might end up. Can your garment be separated and recycled? Can you re-wear it or reuse it?

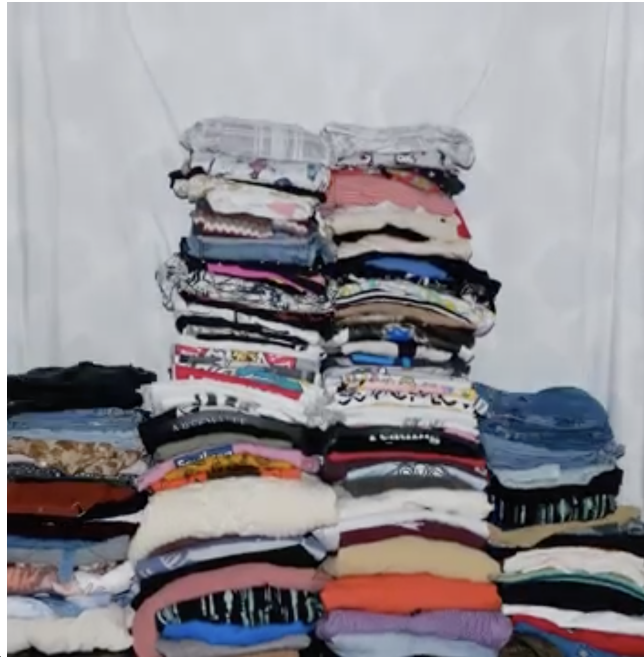


www.wardrobefoundation.co.uk

Wardrobe Foundation is a volunteer led Community Interest Company, providing clothing to women across Wessex who are in desperate need of clothing support. Our aim: At Wardrobe Foundation our aim is to redistribute clothing. Combating the societal need of clothing support, and the environmental issue around textile and clothing waste.

To do this we work with organisations, charities and community groups to deliver personalised and lovingly put together clothing gift bags to women who are in desperate need of clothing. By using donated clothing which we receive from both the public and from retailers.

Each clothing gift bag we provide is based upon the information received from the organisation. Covering the practicalities (height, age, size) but importantly the type, style and colour clothing preferences of the woman who needs clothing. Our aim is to deliver bags of confidence.



Please also find some quotes and facts that may help you with your understanding of the issues around textile waste.

- *"Nearly 4,000,000 tons of textiles goes to landfill each year," yet "nearly 100% of the post consumer waste is recyclable" (Wang, et al, 2022: 10).*
- *Landfill capacity is scarce, yet nearly "GBP 140 million worth of clothing is lost through landfills per year" in the UK alone (Wagner, 2020: 10599).*
- *Annie Leonard, the Greenpeace USA executive director, discusses what to do with our purchased items when we no longer require them. Leonard suggests we think beyond recycling. "That's not to say we shouldn't recycle," says Leonard. "But we can no longer look at it as the fix-all. Recycling is what we do when we're out of options to avoid, repair or reuse the product first," says Leonard. "First, reduce: Don't buy what you don't need. Then, repair: Fix stuff that still has life in it. Also, reuse and share. Then, only when you've exhausted those options, recycle" (Bianchi, 2022: n/p).*

- *"high-income countries accounting for only 16% of the global population, yet they generate over one-third of the world's waste" (Ijjasz-Vasquez et al, 2018: n/p).*
- *The Atacama Desert of Chile Aljazeera is estimated to receive "59,000 tons of clothes that can't be sold in the U.S. or Europe each year." It is aptly referred to as the "Fast Fashion Graveyard" where thousands of tons of clothes get dumped. "It's no one's responsibility to clean up and no one will pay the necessary tariffs to take it away", Aljazeera reported.*
- *In order to deal with the amount of waste, large quantities are burned, causing toxic smoke pollution, and annual fires (Duong, 2021: n/p). The same outcome is practised by Ghanaian traders, where **an estimated 40% of all clothes imported into Ghana is actually waste** (Channel Four News, 2022: n/p). The rest of the imports support many Ghanaian traders and has created an entire economy they depend upon. Moreover, "The export of clothing to these nations has threatened the traditional dress for many indigenous cultures" (Wang et al, 2022: 14).*