

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 in 2011.

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.



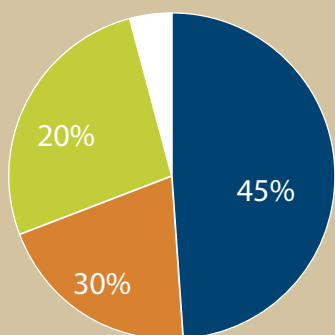
The recycling industry in the United States exports increased to 750 million last year



Voice of the Recycling Industry™

Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.

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

