

## HOW DO I PREPARE MY ITEMS FOR RECYCLING?

Clean and dry all clothes and textiles, and place them in a plastic bag to keep out moisture that causes mildew. Clothes with mildew cannot be accepted for reuse or recycled. If the items are in good condition, consider donating them to your favorite charitable organization.

## IF I CAN'T DONATE, WHAT CAN I RECYCLE?

Montgomery County accepts a wide variety of textiles and clothing items for recycling, including:

- Clean clothing in wearable or non-wearable condition
- Pieces of cloth larger than 14"x14"
- Drapes
- Shoes (in pairs)
- Towels
- Sheets
- Belts
- Handbags



Bring clothing and textiles to the Montgomery County Shady Grove Processing Facility and Transfer Station located at 16101 Frederick Road in Derwood. Please use the Frederick Road/Route 355 entrance to the Transfer Station and follow the signs to the recycling area.



### Montgomery County, Maryland Division of Solid Waste Services

#### Waste Reduction and Recycling Section

101 Monroe Street, 6th Floor  
Rockville, MD 20850  
[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling)  
Phone: 3-1-1 • TTY: 301-251-4850

This information is available in an alternate format  
by calling 240-777-6480.

 Printed on recycled and recyclable paper.



# GIVE YOUR CLOTHES ANOTHER CHANCE

MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S  
CLOTHING & TEXTILE RECYCLING PROGRAM



## WHERE CAN I DONATE MY USED CLOTHING?

There are many organizations located throughout Montgomery County that accept quality clothing and textile donations to provide to residents in the community. This supports Montgomery County's efforts to reduce waste by reusing materials first, even before recycling.

You can find a listing of these organizations, including address, phone number and website at: [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/useitagain](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/useitagain) and selecting "Clothing and Textiles" from the drop-down menu.



## WHY SHOULD I RECYCLE CLOTHES AND TEXTILES?

You'd be surprised at just how often slightly worn clothes and textiles such as pieces of fabric, belts, and shoes are placed in the trash when they could very easily be reused or recycled. According to Montgomery County's most recent waste composition study, approximately 4 percent of all waste disposed of by residents and businesses included clothing and textiles. This is equivalent to over 45,000 tons of clothing and textiles disposed of in the trash that could have been reused or recycled. If you can't donate clothes or other textiles to your favorite charitable organization because of their condition, recycle them instead!

## WHAT HAPPENS TO MY DONATIONS?

When you donate your used clothing or textiles, they are inspected to ensure they're in wearable condition and good enough to offer to others. Accepted donations will be thoroughly washed and made available for purchase at a reduced price. If they are not in wearable condition, they are repurposed to repair clothing or offered to individuals for sale. Purchasing gently used clothing and textiles from thrift stores supports charitable organizations' efforts to provide essential services to community members in need.

## WHAT IF MY CLOTHING IS DAMAGED, BUT SALVAGEABLE?

Not a problem! If your clothing is too worn out to wear, or if you have leftover pieces of cloth, fabrics, and textiles from craft or art projects, then you can donate these items as basic textiles that can be refurbished and repurposed to create or repair something else. For instance, a tattered pair of jeans could be repurposed into basic jean textiles to repair more salvageable jeans that could be sold to others. Curtains or bed sheets can also be reused and repurposed.

## CAN CLOTHING STORES AND BUSINESSES DONATE?

Anyone can donate clothing and textiles, as long as they are in usable condition. If you have clothing items to donate from your business, simply contact a local or favorite charitable organization and make arrangements through them. Even if your business has unmatched outfits (such as suit jackets without pants) or excess inventory, most thrift stores will accept them as long as they are in usable condition. There are no special requirements or steps. Simply check that your donations are good to reuse.

REDUCE • REUSE • RECYCLE