

Sustainable fabrics and recycled materials

By Connor Dowsland

What are sustainable fabrics and recycled materials

- Recyclable materials include many kinds of **glass, paper, cardboard, metal, plastic, tires, textiles, batteries, and electronics.**
- Recycled materials can be used again for things like bird feeders and toys.
- [Sustainable textiles](#) are **textiles** (or fabrics) that are grown and created in an environmentally friendly way, using minimal chemicals

Recycled Fabrics - Plastic

- More than 8 million tons of plastic are dumped in our oceans every year. Millions of whales, turtles, fish and other species are affected by plastic marine debris. Recent studies indicate that at least 19 million kilos of plastic has accumulated and is floating in our oceans.*



Recycled Fabrics - Cotton

- Recycled Cotton is an alternative to conventional cotton. Cotton yarn is made with recycled cotton fabrics, they are cut into pieces, cotton fibre is obtained and becomes recycled cotton yarn. [Eco Fabric](#) is made with recycled cotton.



Sustainable Fabrics - Organic Cottons

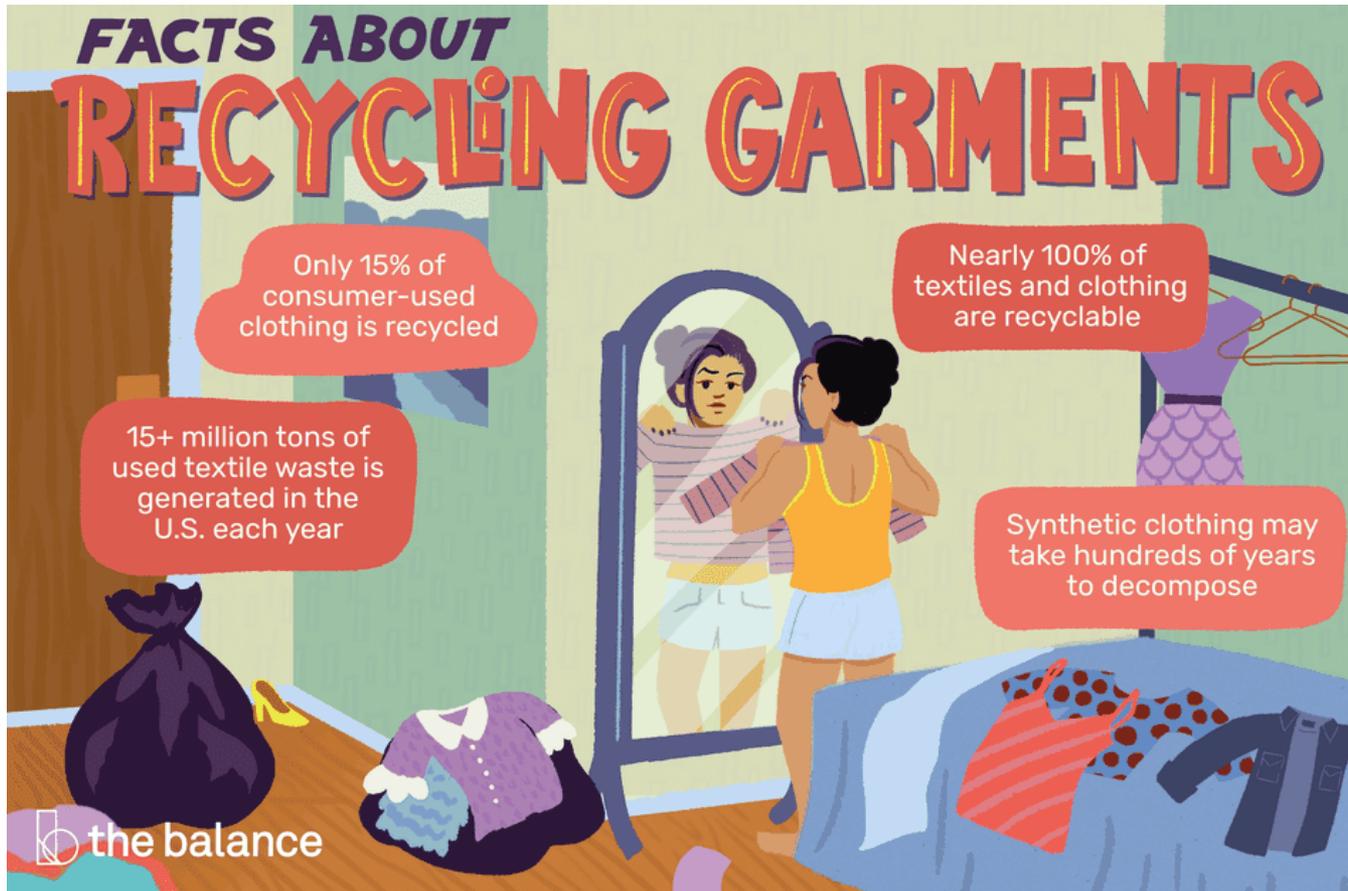
- Sustainable fabrics such as recycled fabric or fabric made with recycled plastic are one way to help reduce our environmental impact. Organic cotton is a more sustainable way of producing cotton.

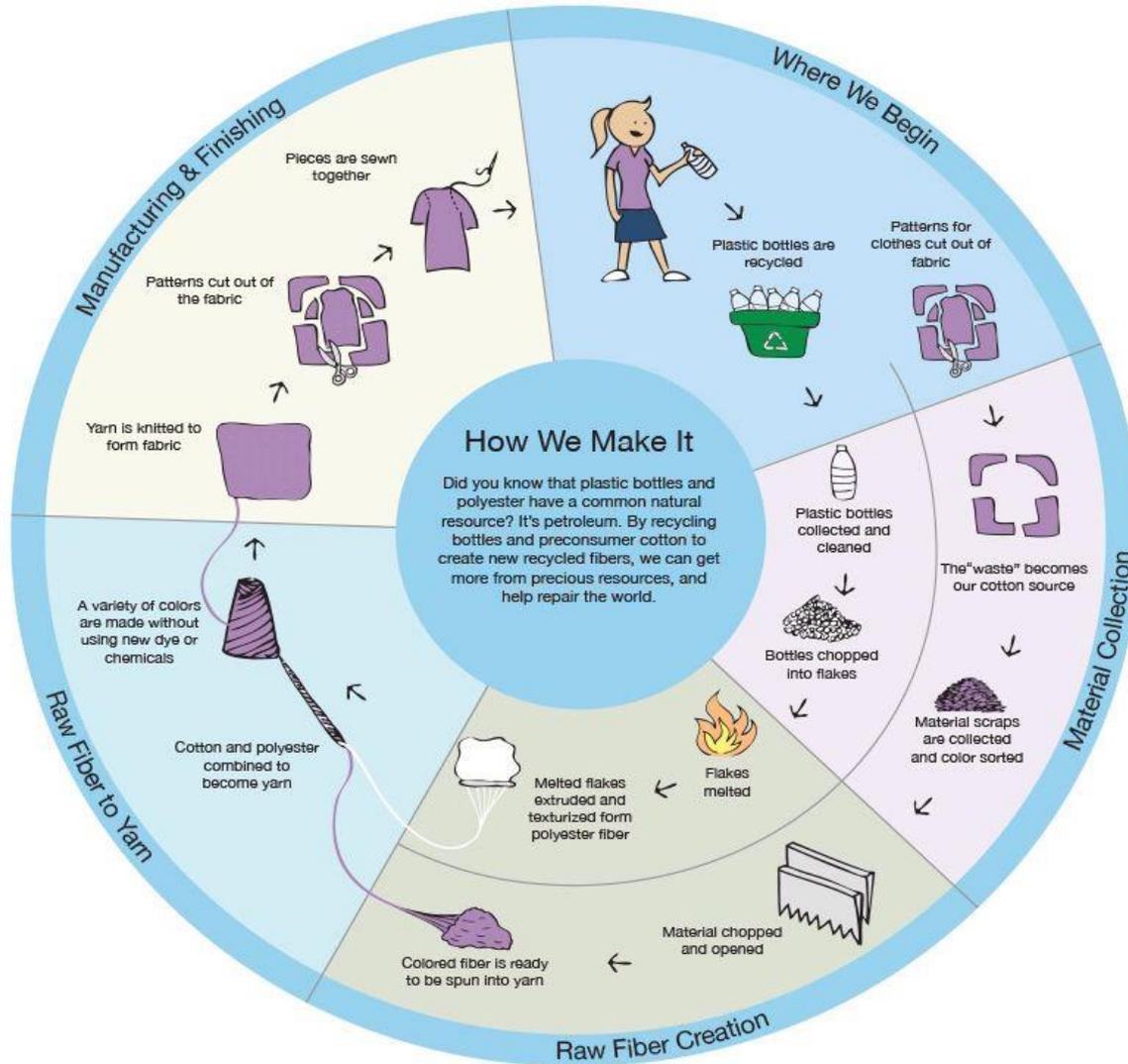


Facts about sustainable fabrics and recycled material

- Only about 0.1% of recycled fibre collected by charities and take-back programs is recycled into new textile fibre.
- The average person buys 60 percent more items of clothing every year and keeps them for about half as long.

Facts about sustainable fabrics and recycled materials





Recycling facts and figures

- As a nation – produced 200 million tonnes of waste in 2012 (the latest year for which figures are available).
Three-quarters of this waste (150 million tonnes) comes from construction and industry. The construction industry is responsible for half off all waste generated in this country.
- Household waste comprises 14% of all UK output, which is 28 million tonnes, or something like half a tonne of waste for every man, woman and child

Fun Facts

- Each UK household produces over 1 tonne of waste per year. This is the weight of a small car.
- In less than 2 hours the UK produces enough waste to fill the Albert Hall.
- Every year, the average dustbin contains enough unrealised energy for 500 baths, 3500 showers or 5,000 hours of television.
- On average, every person in the UK throws away their own body weight in waste every seven weeks.
- Up to 60% of the waste that ends up in the bin could be recycled.

Fun facts about glass

- Around 14 million glass bottles and jars are sent to landfill in the UK every day.
- Recycling one glass bottle or jar saves enough energy to power your computer for 20 minutes.
- Glass can be recycled again and again – containers made from recycled glass are of the same high quality as those made from new raw materials.
- Green glass bottles are made with up to 90% recycled glass.
- The glass we recycle in the UK each year saves enough energy to launch 10 space shuttle missions

Fun facts about paper

- The average person living in the UK uses around 200kg of paper every year.
- Paper and card make up 40% of the waste collected for recycling from UK households.
- For every tonne of recycled newspaper, we save 17 trees.
- Recycling paper saves almost 80% of the energy needed to make paper from new raw materials.
- It can take just seven days for old magazines and newspapers to be recycled into new ones.

Fun facts about plastic

- In the UK we throw away around 455,000 tonnes of plastic bottles every year – equivalent to around 9.1 billion bottles.
- It takes just 25 two-litre plastic bottles to make a recycled fleece jacket.
- Recycling just one plastic bottle saves enough energy to power a 60W light bulb for six hours.
- Around 11% of our household waste is plastic and 40% of this is plastic bottles.
- There are around 500 plastic bottles in a typical bale and you need around 20,000 plastic bottles to make one tonne

Conclusion..Why recycle?

- We're saving the planet's resources.
- There's only one planet Earth, and once we use up all of its useful resources, they're gone forever. It's becoming more difficult and more damaging to exploit some of these resources, so it makes good sense to recycle and reuse as much as possible.

