

Textile Waste Ban - Coming November 2022

Questions and Answers with Cleaner Greener Hingham



Q: What is the textile waste ban?

Beginning November 1, 2022, textiles will be added to the list of disposal bans. This means that you may not dispose of textiles with your regular household trash after this date. This decision is part of a longer term goal to reduce waste disposal in Massachusetts by 30% by 2030 and by 90% by 2050.

Q: What do I do with my stuff?

The best option for textiles in gently-used or like-new condition is to rehome them via donation centers, consignment shops, or local swap events. Check out our Reuse Guide for specific recommendations. For textiles that can no longer be used, but are clean and dry, please use one of the following options, all available at the Hingham Transfer Station.

Bay State Textiles

A textile recycling company. Unwanted textiles are sorted to either be donated overseas, repurposed into wiping rags, or shipped to fiber mills to be ground down and made into new materials.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Donations are resold in this charity's thrift shops, providing employment and volunteer opportunities. Profits from the thrift shops are returned to Councils and Conferences for use in their communities.

The Red Cross

The Red Cross sells donations of used clothing, shoes, and household linens through a vendor. A portion of the proceeds benefits the Red Cross' Disaster Relief Fund.

Helpsy

The largest textile collection company in the Northeast, Helpsy focuses on keeping clothes out of the trash. Higher grade textiles are resold to thrift stores in North America and other second hand markets around the world while lower grade materials get turned into rags for industrial use or into stuffing and insulation.

Goodwill

Donations are sold in one of Goodwill's retail stores, outlets, or auctions. Materials that don't sell are sent to textile recyclers for resale overseas or recycling. Goodwill's stores provide employment opportunities for people with barriers to employment and good-quality goods at reduced prices.

Hand-me-Downs

A Massachusetts-based for-profit company whose aim is to keep gently-used clothing, footwear, and accessories out of landfills and place them in the hands of people who need them.

Textile Waste Ban - Coming November 2022

Questions and Answers with Cleaner Greener Hingham

Q: Why recycle textiles?

- Six percent of all materials going into landfills and incinerators nationally are textiles. Ninety-five percent of these materials could be reused or recycled, yet only 15% of textiles are currently being recovered from the waste stream.
- MA residents throw away 230,000 tons of usable textiles each year.
- Textile reuse and recycling has the second highest potential environmental impact on reducing greenhouse gasses compared to other recyclables. Recycling 2.3 million tons of clothing is the equivalent of removing 1.3 million cars from US roads in terms of emissions.



Q: When will this ban go into effect?

November 1, 2022.

Q: What items are covered under the ban?

Clothing, footwear, bedding, towels, curtains, fabric, and similar items that are clean and dry. Items must be free of mold, mildew, bodily fluids, insects, oils, and hazardous substances.



Q: What if my recycling gets picked up by a private hauler?

If your recycling is picked up at your home for disposal, do not include textiles. Textiles cannot be included with single-stream recycling. They will get tangled in the recycling machinery, potentially causing injury to workers. Bring them to the Transfer Station for recycling.

Q: Are there any exemptions?

The only exemptions are for textiles that are contaminated with mold, mildew, oil, or hazardous substances. Ideally, materials should be clean and dry. Carpets and small area rugs are not considered textiles.

This message is brought to you by Cleaner Greener Hingham, the volunteer Town committee focused on issues related to waste disposal and recycling. To learn more about our work, visit

<https://www.hingham-ma.gov/537/Cleaner-Greener-Hingham>.

We welcome your questions and comments and can be reached at cleanergreener@hingham-ma.gov.