

The Life Cycle of Secondhand Clothing

What happens to your donated or recycled used clothing?

On average, each American donates or recycles 12 pounds of apparel, footwear, and household textiles.¹ Here's what happens next...



Did you know?

Worn or torn, all dry clothing, shoes, and textiles can be **donated or recycled**.

Thrift Industry employs nearly 100,000 workers in the U.S. with over \$1 billion in wages paid. In addition, private sector recyclers create an additional 15,000 to 20,000 jobs nationally.²

Most private sector recyclers are small businesses with fewer than 500 employees. Every 1,000 lbs donated and recycled generates two man days of labor. Primary and secondary recyclers account for annual gross sales in excess of \$700 million.³

Charities and private sector combined handle 3.8 billion pounds annually.⁴ These tremendous volumes are recycled and processed due to a highly efficient industry. Your secondhand clothing goes through this entire process in just 30-60 days.⁵