

Where To Donate Textiles During The Year in Salem

(January 2020)

Don't forget the SalemRecycles Textile Drive is held every November!

Textiles should never be placed in your curbside recycling cart, but they should never go in the trash, either! Here are some year-round options for reusing and recycling them:

1. **Thrift Stores:** Good quality re-salable items can be donated to thrift stores, such as The Lifebridge Thrift Shop or Salem High School Clothes and Food Pantry.
2. **Curbside Pick Up, any quality textile, clean and dry:** If you subscribe to curbside composting with Black Earth Compost, they will collect textiles. For more information reach out to Black Earth Compost:

Conor Miller, Black Earth Compost
978-290-4610; blackearthcompost@gmail.com

3. Drop off of any quality textile, clean and dry:

- a. **Helpsy** has bins where you can drop off textiles and books anytime. Bins are located outdoors at:
 - Loring Tower, 100 Loring Avenue*
 - Phoenix School, 89 Margin Street*
 - St. Peter's Church, 24 St. Peters Street*
 - *27 Charter St Lobby, 27 Charter Street (indoors, Residents Only)*
- b. **Bay State Textiles** has similar outdoor bins at all the Salem public schools.
 - Salem High School, 77 Willson Street*
 - Saltonstall School, 211 Lafayette Street*
 - Bentley Charter School, 25 Memorial Drive*
 - Carlton School, 10 Skerry Street*
 - Bates, 53 Liberty Hill Avenue*
 - Witchcraft Heights, 1 Frederick Street*
 - Collins School, 29 Highland Avenue*



- c. **Goodwill Truck** in the Stop and Shop on Paradise Road in Swampscott. You can also visit the Goodwill store on 301 Newbury St in Danvers. They accept textiles (and just about everything else). This is a good option if you need a receipt for tax purposes.

General Guidelines for Textiles Recycling:

- No carpets or rugs, or damp/moldy items.
- All textiles are recyclable, even if they are torn, stained or have holes: shoes, towels, curtains, fabric scraps, old socks or undergarments, etc.

Did You Know?

- Textiles are sorted and the highest grade gets sold to thrift stores in the US, then overseas. Remaining textiles or scraps are shredded and recycled for industrial uses. It's not as good as re-selling, but it's the next best thing
- According to the Environmental Protection Agency, in 2013, over 15 million tons of textile waste was generated. That's the equivalent of about 3.5 million elephants.
- It takes over 500 gallons of water to produce one cotton t-shirt. That's enough to hydrate 10 humans for an entire year.

With so many easy options, we encourage Salem residents to begin recycling ALL their old textiles. Thanks for doing your part!

Questions?

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