

FAQs for Well-Worn Walter (Clothing Items)

Q: Why should clothes be kept out of the blue bin?

A: Clothes frequently cause problems in the sorting process at the recycling facility. These include getting tangled up with other recyclables as well as getting caught in the gears of the equipment. Known as “tanglers,” clothing items are the cause of mechanical delays, which cost both time and money.

Q: What is the best way to get rid of worn-out or unwanted clothes?

A: Unwanted clothes can be sold to thrift stores or resale shops. They can also be donated to charity. For example, Goodwill not only resells these items, but also makes use of clothes too damaged to sell. Participating Goodwill locations sell worn-out clothes to salvage brokers. These items are often reprocessed as carpet padding, insulation material, paper, yarn, and other items.

Q: What are some good ways to reuse worn-out or unwanted clothing items?

A: Old clothes can be utilized in craft projects or as reusable cleaning rags. Area high school shop classes or technical schools can use unwanted clothes for cleanup. They can also be donated to local animal shelters for use as bedding.

Q: What are some examples of household textiles?

A: Drapes, tablecloths, pillows and pillowcases, blankets, quilts, bathroom and kitchen towels, bed linens (bedsheets), slipcovers, furniture protectors, and floor coverings—any household item made of fabric (not including clothing items).

Q: Which types of clothing items or textiles cause the most problems at the local recycling facility when placed in the blue bin?

A: Because of their larger size, bed sheets, pillows and pillow cases are the most problematic textile items at the local recycling facility.

