



FAQs | Getting to know us.



GETTING TO KNOW US.

Veteran Owned | Family Owned

Reducing Landfill Waste | Helping Families

The idea was to start a textile recovery company that reduced local landfill waste, created good paying jobs and that would do something good for those in need. With only a few clothing recovery bins and a rented storage unit, Apparel Impact was born and started collecting clothing, shoes and textiles of all kinds. It wasn't long before small rented space began to overflow.

Though they were growing fast, the aim remained the same: keep clothes, shoes, accessories and textiles out of landfills, mobilize resources to end local poverty, create jobs and be a for-profit company that truly makes a difference in their community. **Apparel Impact is focused on changing the way people think about clothing.**

Apparel Impact started in 2014 as a New England textile recycler and community support company. Within 5 years, Apparel Impact became the fastest growing textile recycler in the northeastern U.S.; growing from a small regional provider to a multi-state business with over 930 partners and customers ranging from small businesses, non-profit organizations, government partners to Fortune 500 companies.

Apparel Impact is a family and Veteran Owned operated business that focuses on the recovery of textiles and the support of communities throughout the country and is a highly regarded, family owned, veteran owned recycling company that truly understands the value of giving back and supporting their communities while having a primary mission to reduce waste and improve the environment.



2014

Year Established

930+

Bin Hosts & Partners

13,000+

People & Families Clothed

45 Million+

Pieces of Clothing Recovered

IT'S WORSE THAN YOU KNOW.

85% of all clothing, shoes, accessories and other textiles end up in landfills.

Americans discard 17 Million tons of clothing, shoes, accessories and other textiles every year and 85% of it goes in the trash. Only 15% of all clothing, shoes and other items are reused or recycled. **Apparel Impact is on a mission to change this.**

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTS

- The United States produces 17 MILLION TONS (34 Billion pounds) of post consumer textile discards per year (clothes, shoes, accessories, bags, sheets, towels etc).
- 85% of all textiles are sent to landfills and only 15% is reused or recycled. Nearly 100% of textiles are recyclable, if not in reusable condition.
- It costs American taxpayers \$900 Million per year transporting and disposing of discarded textiles.
- Consumption of textiles is projected to increase by 63% by 2030, due in large part to "Fast Fashion".
- Textiles account for nearly 10% of solid waste in United States communities.
- Textile waste is outpacing every other category of waste in the United States.
- It requires 750 gallons of water to manufacture 1 t-shirt from the growing of cotton through production and 1,800 gallons of water are required to manufacture 1 pair of jeans.

A factor that most people don't ever consider is the impact our clothes have on the environment. Textile production requires significant amounts of chemicals, water, energy, and other natural resources. According to the World Resources Institute, it takes 2,700 liters of water to make one cotton shirt. And when consumers throw away clothing in the garbage, not only does it waste money and resources, but it can take 200+ years for the materials to decompose in a landfill. During the decomposition process, textiles generate greenhouse methane gas and leach toxic chemicals and dyes into the groundwater and our soil.



FAQ'S

1. Do you accept gently used (as in just flattened, but not disgusting) pillows?

No. Unfortunately, pillows are difficult to find an outlet for recycling.

2. Are random socks and clean but old underwear accepted?

Yes. We accept undergarments that also include single socks.

3. Do you accept fabric scraps?

No. Unfortunately, fabric scraps are on the hardest items to recycle unless in large quantities.

4. Do we want items bagged or loose?

We prefer all clothing, shoes and accessories to be bagged to make it easier to collect.

5. What happens to the clothes after we get them?

Nearly 4,000 families and children are supported through our community outreach efforts each year. We're rated as the #1 community focused company in New England. We recycle and provide clothing, shoes and other much needed items to local families and homeless in need. Some clothing, shoes and other textiles are destined to U.S. non-profit organizations, clothing graders or clothing recyclers that are looking to utilize the items as a way to fund their causes and to help their communities. Some materials are sent to foreign market places where families can buy, sell and trade to support their families. We also provide our own local outreaches to support local families and people in need.

6. Can I use a bin if I don't live in the town where it is hosted? Even if it's at the Transfer Station?

You can utilize any Apparel Impact bin that is publicly accessible, regardless of the town it's in. Every town transfer station is different, so we suggest calling the town transfer station and asking if you're able to utilize the Apparel Impact bin.

7. What happens to the things that are too damaged to be reused/sold?

Apparel Impact is a true recycler. This means that regardless of condition, the item can either be reused or recycled for another use. If it is recycled for another use, it can be recycled into wiping clothes, furniture stuffing, insulation, tires and many other uses. This comprises of about 15% of what Apparel Impact receives.

8. Do you accept blankets, electric blankets, pillows?

We do accept blankets, but cannot accept electrical blankets or pillows. Electrical blankets and pillows are difficult to recycle due to having electrical components.

9. How damaged is too damaged?

Items that are moldy, smelly, wet or beyond recognition are the items that cannot be accepted. Everything else is acceptable.



If you have a question that wasn't answered, reach out!

Email: info@apparelimpact.com

Phone: (603) 505-4779



FAQ'S

10. Where and to who do we give away the clothing?

Apparel Impact provides nearly 4,000 people each year with clothing, shoes, accessories and other resources for free through their community outreaches. Most outreaches are focused within New Hampshire and Maine. Our outreaches are typically directed towards lower income areas and Veteran causes through our partnerships with Easterseals and Liberty House. Because Apparel Impact is Veteran owned, we have a strong bond with veteran causes and focus our resources on helping Veterans as well.

11. What happens to damaged t-shirts?

If t-shirts are collected and too damaged to be reused again, they typically are recycled into rags, insulation or furniture stuffing.

12. What happens to the unwearable shoes?

unwearable shoes are turned into other materials such as underlayment for the automotive industry, tires and athletic fields.

13. Do you send clothing overseas?

Being veteran owned and operated, Apparel Impact cares deeply about the United States, being American focused and local communities. For this reason we work with clothing graders, textile recyclers and non-profits that are based in the United States.

14. How often do you empty bins?


We service each of our 930+ customer sites and bins weekly. This is what sets Apparel Impact apart from the rest of the clothing recyclers.

15. What do you do with the things that people leave at your bins that you don't accept?

We take responsibility for anything left on the outside of our bin or the inside of our bin, regardless if it is an acceptable item, considered items we don't take or even trash. We average 3%-5% of unacceptable items or trash, which is average within our industry. This expense and responsibility falls on us.

16. Are all of the items Apparel Impact collects turned into rags?

No. Nearly 85% of what we collect is in good enough condition to be reused for its intended purpose.



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ACCEPTABLE ITEMS

All Clothing

- Men's Clothing
- Women's Clothing
- Children's Clothing
- Vintage Clothing
- Coats / Jackets
- Winter Gear

Sheets | Towels

All Footwear

- Sneakers
- Dress Shoes
- Heels
- Flats
- Sandals
- Flip Flops
- Boots
- Cleats
- Slippers

All Accessories

- Hats
- Purses
- Bags
- Pocketbooks
- Backpacks
- Duffle Bags
- Belts
- Gloves
- Ties
- Scarves
- Bathrobes
- Jewelry



All items must be dry, contain no odor or mold. Items DO NOT need to be in wearable condition.