

# The Lifecycle of Rags



Consumers determine clothing, shoes, purses, etc., are no longer needed.

Recycled textiles return to the consumer as home insulation, carpet padding, re-worn clothing and rags.

The recycling processes of SMART companies **rely largely on human labor and are far less energy/water/resource-intensive** or polluting than other recycle industries



Consumer donates items to charity or recycles with municipality.

SMART's membership companies **prevent more than 3.8 billion lbs. of post consumer textile waste from hitting the solid waste stream** each year.



It is estimated that **only 15% of textile materials are being diverted** from the waste stream for recycling purposes. More can and must be done to recapture these vital resources



Charity sells 10-20% of donated items at storefront locations. Charity generates additional revenue by selling salvage materials (95%) to Rag Brokers, Rag Graders or Foreign Rag Graders.

Nearly 100% of donated textiles are recycled. The materials separated into 3 grades:

- Usable Clothing (45%)
- Wiping Cloth Grades (30%)
- Fiber Conversion Grades (21%)



The Association of Wiping Materials, Used Clothing and Fiber Industries

donate recycle don't throw away®



A PROGRAM OF SMART THE SECONDARY MATERIALS AND RECYCLED TEXTILES ASSOCIATION