

Totes Crafty

You'll need a t-shirt and a pair of fabric scissors.



- 1 Turn your shirt inside out.
- 2 Using the fabric scissors, cut off the sleeves along the seam and cut a deep U from the neckline.
- 3 Make sure the bottom edges line up, then cut 3" vertical strips along the entire bottom edge of the shirt.
- 4 Tie the front and back (red) strips together with a simple knot. Repeat along the entire bottom edge.
- 5 To close the gaps between each knot, tie the front strip to the back of the adjacent strip. Make sure to pull these tight for reinforcement!
- 6 After both rows of knots are completed, tie a double knot on each end.
- 7 Turn your bag inside out, and ta-da! Your bag is complete.

RecycleSmart
Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority
1850 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Ste. 320
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

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RecycleSmart

APARTMENTS & CONDOS EDITION FALL 2021

A stitch in time saves the planet

What do an unmatched sock, threadbare sheets and a ripped up old t-shirt have in common? They're all textiles we're likely to toss. Just how much used clothing and bedding do we discard? Try these facts¹ on for size and learn inside this issue how to get rid of textiles at every stage of their use!

• It takes 715 gallons of water to make one t-shirt
• 2,400 tons of jeans get turned into insulation each year

Every year... Americans generate 17 million tons of discarded textiles

15% gets recycled

20% of used textiles get burned for energy

65% (11 million tons) are dumped in U.S. landfills

Patching together the facts!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Handling used clothes
- A craft that's tote-ally cool
- America Recycles Week is coming!



Getting ready for SB 1383

- Starting January 2022, all California residents will be required to separate organic waste from their landfill waste.
- You can prepare for this change by adjusting your habits now:
- **Prevent food waste.** Find ways you can create a meal with what's in your fridge before you shop. Freeze any perishable items that you want to use in the future.
 - **Plan and prep ahead.** Keep your grocery shopping list tidy and your stomach full for the week by meal prepping.
- Your property manager can request FREE kitchen food scraps containers or services by contacting Republic Services at 925-685-4711.
- To learn more about SB 1383, visit [RecycleSmart.org/1383](https://www.recycle-smart.org/1383)

Find Us on Facebook for More Tips!

Want to know how to create a DIY worm bin to compost food? What about alternatives to single-use plastic bags? You can find helpful composting and recycling tips like these and more on the RecycleSmart Facebook page at facebook.com/CCCSWA

BE A SUSTAINABLE SHOPPER

Give life to old clothes! By donating your clothing to your local thrift stores, or choosing to buy second-hand, you are doing your part to give back to your community, reduce landfill waste and save valuable resources like water and energy.

¹ www.epa.gov/facts-and-figures-about-materials-waste-and-recycling/textiles-material-specific-data#TextilesTableandGraph



Keep your recyclables loose

We know that before we put anything into the blue bin that it needs to be empty, clean and dry—and it also needs to be loose! If your items are grouped together in a bag or box, they may not get the chance to be recycled.

Our recycling goes through a complex system to sort and separate out non-recyclables. The system takes items straight from Republic Services' trucks through a sorting conveyor complete with scanners, magnets and blowers. But stuff at the facility can't unwrap recyclables from bags or boxes.

If the sorting machine can't figure out where something belongs because it's attached to other items, the whole group can get discarded.

Republic Services has a way to help! You can get a recycling tote bag from Republic Services to collect and transport loose recyclables to your blue bin. The bags even have a handle at the bottom for easy emptying!

Don't let your work go to waste, keep your recyclables loose.

Make your pledge today!

November is America Recycles Month

And America Recycles Week is November 14-21! This month, we can all commit to better recycling habits. Go to ContraCostaRecycles.com by November 30th to take the recycling pledge for a chance to win zero-waste prizes. Prizes will be sourced from local eco-shops!

Where it goes

Has your style or size changed? Here's how to handle clothes and other fabric items that you don't need anymore:



Sew happy together

Hole-y moly, I get a new life!

Need More Info?



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Organics, Recycling and Landfill
925-685-4711

Ask your property manager to contact Republic Services about additional recycling, organic or landfill carts or bins, computer and TV collection, special clean ups or to request motor oil recycling kits, recycling tote bags and kitchen food scrap containers.

This newsletter is recyclable!



Printed on paper made from post consumer waste (PCW).



Clothes to Home

Madeleine S., Alamo

Hi RecycleSmart!
My friends and I are trying to be more environmentally conscious when it comes to clothing. We've found some stores that accept used clothes to be recycled or donated.

Madewell (in Walnut Creek) and Levi's stores take donated denim. They resell them or turn them into cotton fiber insulation.

H&M (in Walnut Creek) will take textiles from any brand in any condition—even socks and old sheets!

Sports Basement (in Walnut Creek) accepts used shoes and tennis balls for repair and reuse.

The North Face's Clothes the Loop program accepts gently used apparel and footwear for reuse (Berkeley and Vacaville).

Call ahead to confirm program details.



HAVE TIPS TO SHARE?
Send your ideas to
Authority@RecycleSmart.org