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Community Recycling & Waste Services News and Information

## Make Every Thread Count

*Choosing quality clothes that save money, last longer and reduce waste*

Quality doesn't have to be code for "expensive." Well-made clothes aren't determined by the price tag and simple care can make those pieces last, which saves you the hassle and cost of replacing them. You can extend the life of your clothes and your investment by taking a few easy steps:

### Step 1: Look for signs of quality

- **Fabrics:** All types of fabrics, whether natural or synthetic, have advantages and disadvantages. Consider the quality of the fabric itself (thickness, softness, stretch, etc.) and how suitable the fabric is for that particular item.
- **Check for rippled, puckered or twisted hems and seams.** Avoid garments that don't appear to hang smoothly.
- **Edges and hems:** Cut or "raw" edges and hems can lead to unraveling and loose, hanging threads. Be careful in choosing garments with these features as they may require special laundering.
- **Matched patterns:** If the garment has stripes or plaid, the pattern should match up at the seams.
- **Linings:** For suits and other lined garments, check to see if the lining hangs loosely and doesn't cause any pulling or puckering.
- **Quality buttons and buttonholes:** Buttonholes should be well stitched with no loose threads or raw fabric showing. Test the button in the buttonhole to make sure it's easy to button up the garment.

### Step 2: Care for your clothes

- **Clean correctly:** Follow labels when washing your clothes to keep them looking better and lasting longer.
- **Consider cold water:** For most laundry, you can use cold water and less detergent than directed. This prevents exposure to excess heat or chemicals that contribute to fading or wearing out.
- **Group similar items and turn inside out:** When washing, turn jeans and graphic shirts inside out to prevent fading and wear. Wash similar items together (for example, all jeans) to prevent harsher fabrics from wearing on softer ones.
- **Use the dryer sparingly:** High heat fades and shrinks material, and also breaks down elastic fibers in clothes, causing breakage and stretching. When possible, line or flat dry your clothes. If using the dryer, use the lowest setting.

### WHY WE GET RID OF CLOTHING IS PREVENTABLE



*(article continued on back page)*

## Plastic Film Recycling

You've probably heard about a potential plastic ban in Oregon. Even if this passes, there are still lots of other clean plastic bags and thin, stretchy film (like product wrap on cases of water) in circulation that can be recycled at special locations! These types of soft plastic *cannot go in your tan recycle cart* because they jam up the machinery that sorts the mix of recycling; instead they must be collected as a separate material.

Visit <https://www.plasticfilmrecycling.org/> to find your nearest drop off location and what types of bags and film are accepted.



Appropriate materials dropped off to a Plastic Film Recycling location are recycled to manufacture composite lumber for making decks, benches, and playground sets. Plastic film can also be reprocessed into small pellets, which can be made into new bags, pallets, containers, crates, and pipe.



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\* The 2013 National Postconsumer Plastic Bag & Film Recycling Report

## Community Events

### Residential Household Hazardous Waste Event\*\*

Saturday, August 10th & Saturday, November 9th

9am - 2pm 110 NE Walnut Blvd., Corvallis (Enter from Belvue Street)

Accepted materials include:

- paints & stains
- cleaners & degreasers
- fluorescent tubes & bulbs  
(household quantities)
- herbicides\* & insecticides\*
- antifreeze & batteries
- thinners & solvents
- photographic chemicals
- fertilizers & pesticides\*
- other hazardous products labeled:
  - flammable
  - toxic
  - poison
  - danger
  - warning
  - caution

*Be sure to check out the Reuse Table at Hazardous Waste Events, for free items that are sorted as still usable!*

**\*These items cannot be redistributed for reuse at this event, per ODA Law.**

**\*\*This event is for residential customers only. Commercial generators or customers with quantities of 5 gallons or greater must call 1-800-547-2436 to schedule an appt.**

### Compost Workshop

Saturday, September 7, 9am-1pm downtown at 1st & Monroe, Corvallis

Stop by the Corvallis Farmers' Market for a drop-in composting Q&A hosted by Republic Services. Experts from Oregon State University's Horticulture Department and Republic Services will be on hand to answer all of your backyard and curbside composting questions at this community event. Don't forget to bring a 5 gallon bucket (or smaller) to take home a sample of compost made from local mixed organics at Pacific Region Compost!

### Fall Leaf Collection

Adair Village - October 28, November 11, December 9

Corvallis - October 21 - December 13

Philomath - October 17 & 31, November 14 & 28, December 12

*Rake leaves into the street just before your weekly collection day. Rows should be long and narrow and two feet away from the curb. Be sure not to block bikes lanes, storm drains, or driveways.*

### Summer Holiday Information:

Please note that our offices will be closed on Independence Day and Labor Day; however, all services will run as usual.



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## Make Every Thread Count *(cont'd from Page 1)*

- Stain removal: Discover what sort of care is best for the stain. Cold water, hot water or stain treatment? Some quick online research can save that garment you love.
- Simple fixes: Learn the simple but satisfying art of re-attaching a button, mending a tear or applying a patch.
- Call in the experts: Locate a good dry cleaner and tailor who can help keep your clothes clean and well-fitted.

### Step 3: Wear those clothes often and for years to come!

Every item in your closet has a cost-per-wear: the longer you wear that shirt or pair of jeans, the more you get out of your investment. A closet carefully stocked with several quality items will outlast a closet packed with poorly made, disposable clothes. So choose quality—you'll look good, save money and help care for our environment.



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