

Position Paper on Clothing and Textiles at Recycling and Household Waste Sites May 2025

Leicestershire County Council's Recycling and Household Waste Sites (RHWS) accept clothing and household textiles which are sent for either reuse, recycling or disposal depending on their condition and recyclability.

Clothing, shoes and textiles that are clean, dry, and which are in a saleable condition are collected in a clothing and textiles bank and are usually sent for reuse by a third-party contractor. This excludes uniform and work clothing (including high visibility clothing) which currently have very limited value on the second-hand clothing market.

Clothing, shoes and textiles (including cut-offs) that are made of recyclable materials and which are clean and dry; but which are not suitable for resale owing to their appearance are usually collected in a clothing and textiles bank and are sent for recycling. This includes items that are heavily worn, and/or which have been altered.

Our third-party contractors will sort these items on site and may decide to deposit some items left for reuse or recycling into the general waste bins if they feel the items are not suitable for either reuse or recycling.

Items which may be sent for disposal include:

- Clothing and textiles which are unsaleable and which are made from a combination of different fibres e.g. Poly-cotton, Poly-nylon, or wool- acrylic blends. The different fibres have different chemical compositions and properties, and it is not economically viable to recycle these items currently.
- Clothing and textiles with embellishments (e.g. sequins or beads) are fine for reuse if in good condition but cannot be recycled.
- Pillows, duvets and curtains which require specialist recycling facilities. Leicestershire County Council do not currently have a recycling outlet for these items. Site staff will advise that these should be disposed of as general waste to avoid contaminating the clothing and textiles container.
- Dirty, heavily stained and/or wet clothing, shoes and textiles which can contaminate otherwise reusable / recyclable materials.

Items will only be disposed of if they can't be either reused or recycled by our approved contractor; an alternative option to disposal is always preferred.

For information on how to make the most of your clothing please [see our Less Waste wear, care and repair information](#).