**Green Schools
Litter and Waste**
Textiles and Clothing

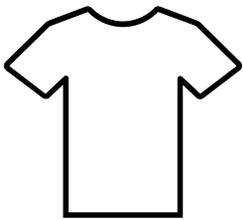Green-Schools

GREEN-SCHOOLS
STAY HOME

## Did you Know?

The clothing & textile industry is the second largest contributor to global pollution.

We use a wide range of resources to make our clothing and textiles. However weather we get those raw material is from a plant, an animal or crude oil, the process of making textiles is both energy-demanding and pollutant-intensive, involving huge amounts of water, energy, chemicals, pesticides and herbicides.
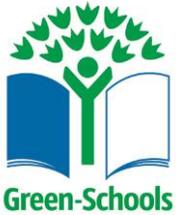
**A Cotton t-Shirt:**

- The average t-shirt uses 2700 l water in production

- For every 1kg of cotton we use 3 kg of chemicals

- Cotton farming uses 16% of the global pesticides and 8 tonnes of fertilisers

**Polyester Jeans:**

- Plastic based fibres represented 60% of the clothing market in 2019

- 342 m barrels of oil used every year to produce plastic textile fibres

- Annually the equivalent of 50 billion plastic bottles worth of plastic microfibres for textiles end up in our oceans

**Shoes:**

- Producing 1 shoe produces 14 kg $CO_2$

- 15 billion shoes are produced each year

- Production of shoes uses some toxic substances: e.g. hexavalent chrome, a recognised carcinogen used to tan leather

Facts sourced from
GreenEuropeanJournal
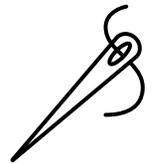
## So what can we do?

**Reduce:** re-thinking what and where we get our clothes can reduce the environmental production costs of the textile & clothing industry. Share your clothing, Set up swap shops, buy pre-loved clothes, and if you buy new look for eco-friendly brands.
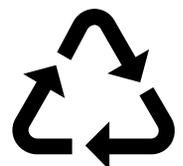
**Reuse:** "Fashions change but style endures" we tend to buy and where clothes only a few times. If we where what we have more times, we can reduce our own impact. Adding different accessories can change an outfit.
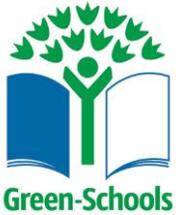
**Repair:** Learning new skills, long forgotten can extend the life of your favorite top, or accessories your turn Jeans. Knitting and sewing, can help you repair and create. Giving you something that can't be both in the shop.

**Recycle:** Unwanted textiles can be recycled: donate pre-loved clothes, shoes and soft furnishings to local charity shops or use the charity textile bins at bring centers and other locations.
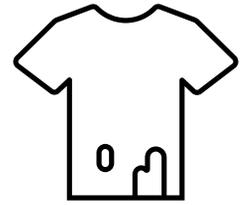
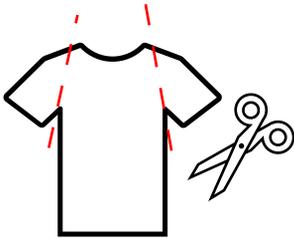## What about the Clothes not suitable for recycling?

Some textiles are not suitable for re-use or recycling such as those that are heavily soiled or worn, these should be disposed of in a clothes bank where they will be sent for shredding and used, for instance, as furniture stuffing.

**Why not try make a new carrier bag out of a t-shirt you don't where anymore? All you need is a good scissors and the t-shirt.**
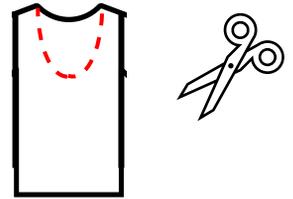
1. Cut off the sleeves
2. Cut out a u shape, from the neck hole
3. Turn the shirt in-side out and straighten/smooth it out
4. Cut 4 inch stripes 1 inch thick all along the bottom edge
5. Tie the corresponding bottom and top stripes all along the t-shirt
6. There will be small gaps; so now tie the top stripe to the bottom strip opposite it, again all the way along, good and tight
7. Double or triple knot the end knots on each side.
8. Turn the t-shirt right side out, and 'ta da!' you have a new bag.
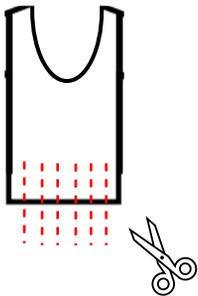
# Make a new carrier bag out of a t-shirt
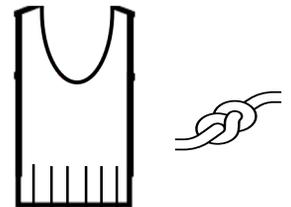
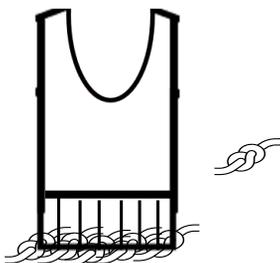1: Cut off the sleeves

2: cut out a u-shape, from the neck line

3: Turn the t shirt inside-out

4: Cut 4 inch stripes 1 inch thick all along the bottom edge

5: Tie the corresponding bottom and top stripes all along the t-shirt

6: There will be small gaps; so now tie the top stripe to the bottom strip opposite it, again all the way along, good and tight

7: Double or triple knot the end knots on each side.

8: Turn the t-shirt right side out, and 'ta da!' you have a new bag.