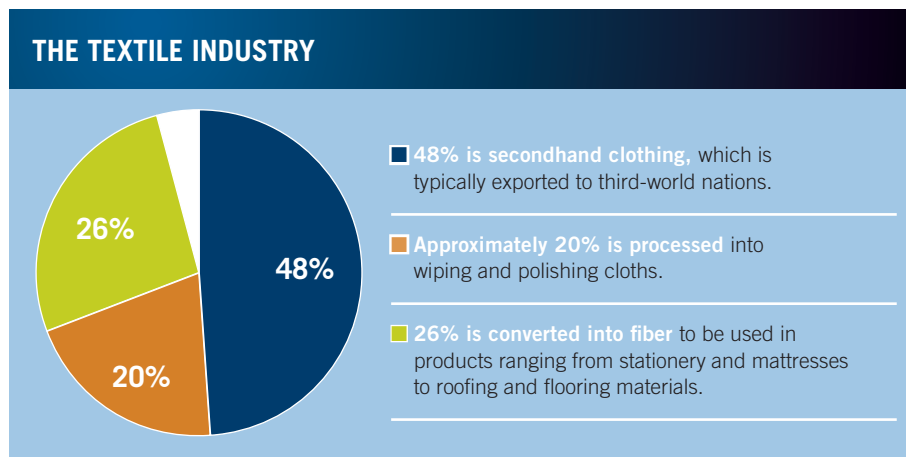


The Scrap Recycling Industry: Scrap Textiles

The textile segment of the recycling industry processes billions of pounds of **cotton, wool, synthetic, and synthetic-blend products** annually. These scrap materials come from a number of sources, ranging from apparel and home furnishing manufacturers to textile mills and consumers.

Each year, 750,000 tons of textiles recovered from the textile, fiber, and cotton industries are recycled into **new raw materials for the automotive, furniture, mattress, coarse yarn, home furnishings, paper and other industries**, achieving a 75% recycling rate. In addition, according to estimates by the Council for Textile Recycling, the recycling industry in the U.S. recycles approximately 10 pounds of textiles per person, or 1,250,000 tons of textiles generated by consumers or households each year. This number represents an estimated 25% recycling rate.



Used clothing collected from households is graded into a number of categories. Garments in good condition are exported for resale in parts of the world where people can't afford more expensive clothing. **This trade provides employment** not only among the exporting nations, but also in the importing countries. According to the Bureau of International Recycling (BIR), a recent study revealed that in Kenya alone, the secondhand clothing trade directly or indirectly benefited an estimated 5 million people.

The textile recycling industry is undertaking efforts to encourage the recovery of an additional 1 million tons of scrap textiles. The focus of this recovery effort is directed at municipalities that are currently dumping valuable textile material into landfills.



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Institute of
Scrap Recycling
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