
THE UGLY FACE OF FASHION

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What is the effect of clothing pollution?



Clothes found on the side of the road on Tidal road Māngere, Auckland.

“Fashion is one of the most polluting industries in the world. We need to change that.” – Emma Watson.

There were clothes dumped on the side of the road. This is one part of a mess amongst many. It got us curious about whether animals would start living in those clothes. Even getting themselves stuck in there, unable to get out, suffocating or even dying of starvation.

There are many clothing recyclable bins in various places yet people choose to put them in the most ridiculous places that very plainly harm the environment. If someone picks these up, the highest probability of what they will do is throw it out, only to end up getting dumped into the ocean, then attacking marine life and its surrounding.

The number of clothing produced has increased as a result of how frequently consumers and retailers change their trends. The sector contributes significantly to environmental plastic leakage. With between 200 000 and 500 000 tonnes of microplastics from textiles entering the environment each year. Our health, the environment, and the lives of garment workers are all negatively impacted by this.

As consumers purchase more apparel, the global market for low-cost products and cutting-edge styles is growing, which is bad for the environment. Shoppers bought 60% more apparel in 2014 than they did in 2000. Fashion is responsible for 10% of global carbon emissions. The United Nations have started sustainable development goals. The fast fashion crisis relates to ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns. We need to watch out on how many clothes we're making and buying.

According to estimates, man-made or synthetic fibers are used to make 60% of clothes and 70% of textiles. With 1% of the oil needed to produce synthetic fibers going to the textile industry, the climate situation is getting worse. Oil and natural gas are two fossil fuels used in the production of synthetic textile fibers. Their creation, usage, and waste management result in the discharge of microplastics, the use of non-renewable natural resources, and greenhouse gas emissions.

How do we stop this and make better decisions to prevent further environmental damage? We can start by selecting recycled and organic fabrics. Because the recycling process can reduce the impact of garment pollution by up to 99%, it is advised to choose clothing made of organic cotton, recycled cotton, or polyester

Choosing clean textiles is another smart move when purchasing new clothing. Compared to typical fabrics, these two materials utilize less water throughout the fabric-making process. Even if it's not suitable and it's not very friendly to our environment, dispose of them properly.

Thrift shops are beneficial because they provide a means of recycling and reusing clothing. By using clothing bins, we can significantly reduce the amount of clothing that is being released into our environment. These clothes are reused making it way more suitable and sufficient. Thrift stores are ideal if you frequently change your wardrobe or merely want new clothes. These shops, or their online equivalents, support garment recycling and reuse. Purchase organic hemp or linen clothing.

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