

NEW TO YOU

Buying second-hand clothes is an old idea that's helping cut down on garbage today.

WHEN GARMENTS HAD TO BE MADE BY HAND, PEOPLE DIDN'T HAVE NEARLY AS MANY CLOTHES, AND THEY WORE THE SAME ONES DAY IN AND DAY OUT. IT WAS JUST TOO EXPENSIVE TO BUY MORE. WHEN A YOUNG PERSON OUTGREW SOMETHING, IT WAS PASSED ON TO SOMEONE SMALLER. (MAYBE YOUR FAMILY DOES THIS TODAY.)



TEXTILES is another word for fabric or cloth. When people talk about textiles, it can refer to anything made from cloth, from clothing to curtains.

Alamy



For thousands of years, fabric came from natural sources: wool, silk, cotton and linen. Early in the 20th century, first nylon and then rayon came along. Starting in the 1940s, scientists invented all kinds of new materials made from plastic. Polyester, acrylic, spandex and others were much cheaper to make. By the 1950s, people were buying far more clothes than ever before.



GUY'S FRENCHYS

second-hand clothing stores are popular throughout Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

THE AVERAGE PERSON THROWS AWAY 37 KG OF TEXTILES EVERY YEAR. ABOUT 94 PER CENT OF THAT COULD BE REUSED OR RECYCLED.



IN 2018 THE WORLD PRODUCED 100 BILLION PIECES OF NEW CLOTHING. THAT'S TWICE AS MANY AS IN 2000.

By the 1980s, thrift shopping, as it's sometimes called, started to become more popular. Of course, people with less money had long bought second-hand clothes because of the lower price. But now those who wanted to look different and spend less realized they could get interesting, inexpensive clothes at stores run by charities, churches and as businesses. More recently, many people have also turned to second-hand stores to cut down on clothing waste. Where people used to look down on buying used clothes, now it's seen as an easy way to help the environment and save money.

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