# Clothing 101

By the 5 Planeteers



### **Overview**

- Fast fashion
- Clothing fabrics
- Levi's campaign
- Clothing care
- Upcycling
- Donating & Repurposing

### What is Fast Fashion?



### **Clothing Fabrics**

### Natural Fibers

Made of natural materials that come from plants, animals, or minerals.

Have smaller environmental impact than synthetic fibers because natural fibers do not use as many chemicals during the production process.

## Synthetic Fibers

Made of synthetic materials, usually formed through chemical processes.

Cheaper alternatives to natural products. Many synthetic fabrics are imitation versions of natural fabrics, like wool and silk.

### **Natural vs. Synthetic Fibers**



Fibers	<b>Decomposing Rate</b>
Cotton	1 week to 5 months
Linen	2 weeks
Silk	4 years
Wool	1 to 5 years
Leather	Up to 50 years
Natural Rubber	100 years
Polyester	20 to 200 years
Spandex	Indefinite
Rayon	Few weeks to years
Acrylic	200 years



Image source: H&M

### **Buy Better, Wear Longer Campaign**



### Levi's Campaign

- Between 2000 and 2020, global clothing consumption has DOUBLED
- We keep our clothes for almost half as long as we did 15 years ago
- "Ultimately, Levi's® denim is meant to be worn for generations, not seasons," - Jen Sey, Levi's Brand President
- Campaign encourages patrons to buy second-hand, or get their jeans tailored to extend their life

### **Levi's Campaign Cont'd**

- Campaign also includes practices in Levi's production to drive down natural resource footprint
  - For example, using cottonized hemp which uses less water to grow, grows faster, and leaves behind cleaner soil than cotton
  - "To get a soft feel typically achieved by using fabric softener, we might tumble jeans with bottle caps and golf balls, taking the water out of the wash altogether."

### Clothing Gare Tips

- 1. Use delicates bags
- 2. Wash Less! Especially denim. Jean experts say you only need to wash them once every 10 wears! Stick them in your freezer in between washes to zap odors.
- 3. Instead of dry cleaning, use delicate detergent or an at-home dry cleaning bag that goes in your dryer.
  Also, saves you a trip to the cleaners. Use a clothesline or drying rack
- 4. Store your clothes carefully
  - Use wooden hangers instead of wire or plastic, which can create bumps in the shoulders of your shirts
  - Fold sweaters instead of hanging them

### **Upcycling Fashion**

- Take old, worn out or damaged clothing and transform it into something new.
- Clothing that doesn't fit any longer, is torn, stained or otherwise damaged, can be refashioned into a new product.
- Upcycling means reusing the same fabric and turning it into something else.
- Deadstock: products that companies make but aren't able to sell, usually left over from fashion houses who overestimated their needs.

### **Upcycling Fashion**

patagonia

RE/DONE

**URBAN OUTFITTERS** 

Patagonia: Worn
Wear Recrafted. If
you have an old
Patagonia item,
they'll give you credit
towards your next
purchase on a used
or new garment.

RE/DONE: takes
vintage denim
apart at the
seams and
repurposes it into
new jeans

#### **Urban Outfitters:**

Created Urban Renewal, which uses surplus materials or deadstock and transforms it

### **Businesses that Upcycle Cont'd**

## asos

### Reformation

#### **ASOS** Reclaimed:

Uses organic cotton,
linen, hand-dyed
fabrics and recycled
materials. Strives for
no-waste patternmaking and
production, made
locally in New York

Reformation ×
thredUP: Sell your old
clothes for Ref credit
or recycle them and
thredUP will give \$5 to
the Circular Fashion
Fund (CFF)

### **Donating & Repurposing**

A penny shirt saved is a penny shirt earned!

## SECONDHAND CLOTHES

- Inexpensive
- Swap with friends/ family
- Rent clothes
- Charity-based thrift stores
- Fun vintage finds!

### REPURPOSE/ REPAIR

- Mend cloths
  - Simple mending
  - Re-sole shoes
  - Patch it up!
- Repurpose
  - Over-dye
  - Find a new use

## Guide to Sustainable Fashion



### **Takeaways**

#### Clothing care

- Wash when needed
- Hand or spot wash
- Use cold water
- Line dry
- Avoid dry cleaning
- Quality pieces last longer

## Support Fair Trade & Ethical Brands

 Buying from these brands helps their more and more similar practices

## What to do with old clothes?

- Donate
- Sell
- Recycle

### Let's change this



### **Thoughts? Questions?**



#### Resources

- <a href="https://www.masterclass.com/articles/natural-vs-synthetic-fibers#advantages-of-using-synthetic-fibers">https://www.masterclass.com/articles/natural-vs-synthetic-fibers#advantages-of-using-synthetic-fibers</a>
- <a href="https://www.panaprium.com/blogs/i/rayon-biodegrade">https://www.panaprium.com/blogs/i/rayon-biodegrade</a>
- <a href="https://www.peacefuldumpling.com/clothing-decompose-rate">https://www.peacefuldumpling.com/clothing-decompose-rate</a>