



Collection and Sales of Second-hand Clothes

Reuse, recycling and the Waste Hierarchy

When textiles are discarded there is a risk that the material is wasted/the value of the material is lost, and even that the textiles contribute to further negative environmental impact. As a guideline for what to do with textiles once we don't need them any longer we can use the Waste Hierarchy.

The mechanism of the Waste Hierarchy is simple: the higher in the hierarchy, the better for the environment.

Reuse

(= using the item again for the purpose it was made for, for example, when my friend gets my shirt and uses it as a shirt) is ALWAYS less harmful to the environment than any other treatment lower in the hierarchy.

Recycling

(= using the material of an item for something else than it was made for, for example, when my worn-out T-shirt is used as a cleaning rag, or it is shredded and the fibers used as filling material or in the production of new textile products), is not so good as reuse, but still better than throwing it on the landfill.

The red line under Reuse is a very important borderline; it separates waste from non-waste. Items that are good enough for reuse are per definition NOT waste according to the Waste Hierarchy.

The Waste Hierarchy

