NACTR Textile Waste Audit Guide

Purpose

This guide provides a harmonized standardized framework for identifying and categorizing post-consumer textiles in residential waste audits across Canada. Using consistent definitions improves data quality, enables comparison across municipalities, and supports textile diversion planning. For audit purposes, textile categories are intentionally broad and include items historically have been classified as "Other" waste, helping improve the overall accuracy of waste audit results.

What is a Textile?

For the purposes of waste audits, textiles include clothing, household textiles, footwear, accessories, soft toys, and other textile-based items generated by residents.

Textile Categories

1. Clothing
2. Household Textiles
3. Footwear
4. Accessories
5. Soft Toys
6. Other Textiles

Scope

This guide applies to residential post-consumer textiles collected through municipal waste audits. It excludes commercial, industrial, institutional, and manufacturing textile waste.

Using This Guide

Sort and record textile materials according to the categories and examples provided in the accompanying classification table. Consistent application will harmonize and improve local, regional, and national data collection and reporting.

About This Framework

The textile definitions were originally developed through collaboration among Canadian municipal, industry, and textile diversion stakeholders and have been refined through subsequent updates. The current version reflects updates completed in 2026 to support a consistent harmonized national approach to textile waste measurement.

To share feedback, make inquiries, or be added to our mailing list, please contact us at info@nactr.ca

Textile Waste Audit Classification Guide

Examples listed in this guide are representative and not exhaustive.
Similar textile products should be classified within the most appropriate category.

Clothing

Blazers	Blouses	Bras	Baby clothing
Bibs	Aprons	Capris	Coats
Costumes	Dresses	Fur & Leather Coats	Jackets
Jeans	Leggings	Leotards	Lingerie
Overalls	Workwear / Coveralls	Compression garments	Pants
Panty hose, nylons	Robes	Shirts	Shorts
Skirts	Sleepwear	Slips	Snow Pants
Snowsuit	Socks	Sports Jerseys	Suits
Sweaters	Swim Trunks	Swimsuit	Tank Top
T-Shirts	Underwear	Uniforms (less than 10 pieces)	Vests
Wetsuits / Dry suits			

Household Textiles

Bathmat	Bath Towel	Beach Towel	Bed Spread
Blanket	Car seat covers	Cloth Napkins	Comforter
Crib bumpers	Curtains	Dish Cloth	Drapes
Duvet	Duvet Cover	Fabric Shower Curtain	Face Cloth
Flags	Furniture Cover	Hand Towel	Material
Mattress Cover and change pads	Pillowcase	Pillows	Placemat
Quilts	Rags	Sports Towels	Sleeping bag
Tablecloth	Table Runner	Throw Rug	Window Topper
Yarn	Oven mitts	Potholders	Ironing board covers
Laundry bags	Reusable cleaning cloths	Reusable cloth diapers	

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Footwear

- Shoes
- Flip flops
- Insoles and linings for boots and shoes
- Boots (including sport boots - motocross, horseback riding)
- Water Socks
- Flippers
- Shoelaces
- Cleats (soccer, baseball football, golf)
- Slippers
- Galoshes
- Orthotic inserts
- Sandals
- Ice skates
- Removable insoles

Accessories

- Backpacks
- Gym bags
- Purses
- Wallets
- Bow ties
- Cosmetic bags
- Bags
- Hats and caps
- Reusable Shopping, Tote Bags (excludes plastic)
- Umbrellas
- Suspenders
- Belts
- Headbands
- Sleeves and gaiters
- Wigs
- Bandanas
- Travel bags / duffel bags
- Gloves and mittens
- Hockey Bags
- Scarves
- Ties
- Fabric wristbands

Other Textiles

- Masks, including reusable facemasks, or costume style masks
- Seasonal decorations (fabric-based holiday or decorations)
- Reusable gift wrap (fabric)
- Pet Beds
- Fabric scraps larger than 5" square (up to 10 pounds)
- Reusable cloth produce bags
- Pet Clothing
- Plush Pet Toys
- Pet collars and leashes
- Fabric gift bags

Soft Toys

- Stuffed animals
- Fabric dolls
- Stuffed toys
- Bean bag toys (small toy-sized only)
- Toy pillows
- Doll clothing

NOT INCLUDED – Considered Other Household Waste

Household Furnishings & Building Materials
Carpets (floor coverings)
Furniture cushions
Upholstery fabric
Upholstered furniture
Window blinds and shades

Outdoor, Recreation & Sports Equipment
Tents
Sports gear
Ski and snowboard boots
Ice cleats / crampons (without shoes)
Sport and protective accessories (harnesses, masks, goggles, helmets, water sport equipment)
Protective covers for barbecues, outdoor furniture, or chairs

Automotive & Utility Items
Car floor mats
Canvas tarps
Hard luggage
Umbrellas
Plastic rice sacks and feed bags

Medical & Hygiene Products
Textile-based health products (gauze, compression bandages, surgical dressings)
Blood pressure monitors and similar non-textile health devices
Single-use textile products such as diapers, makeup removal pads, cleaning rags, vacuum bags, and filters
Used mops and textile mop heads

NOT INCLUDED – Considered IC&I Textile Waste

Retail & Manufacturing Waste
Retailer or manufacturer's bulk textile disposals (clothing, household textiles, footwear, accessories, and soft toys).
Fabric bolts
Manufacturer cut-offs or clippings

Institutional Textiles
Hospital bedding and linens
Hotel bedding and linens
Uniforms disposed of in bulk (10 pieces or more)