

Facts about fast fashion

Australians send 85% of the textiles we buy to landfill every year.¹

A single synthetic garment can generate more than 1,900 micro plastic fibres in one washing machine cycle.²

More than 60 million people work in the garment industry: over 15 million of those are based in Asia. Over 80% are women, often young and from poor rural backgrounds. Asia supplies more than 90% of the garments imported into Australia.³

One in five Australians throw garments out after wearing them just once.⁴

One t-shirt requires 2,700 litres of water to produce.⁵

A denim jacket can take 10-12 months to break down in landfill; clothes made of lycra can take between 20 and 200 years.⁶

"Three in ten Australians (30%) have thrown away more than ten items of clothing in the past year. A similar proportion (24%) have thrown away an item of clothing after wearing it just once and one in six (16%) have thrown away at least three items that they've only worn once."⁷

"The most popular reason for disposing of clothes is because they no longer fit, which 57% consider grounds for throwing garments away. Other common reasons to throw clothes away are because they're damaged (chosen by 52%) and because they have developed a fault (selected by 40% of respondents)."⁸

"Millennials (people born after 1981) are twice as likely as baby boomers to toss clothing because it is unfashionable or they are bored of wearing it."⁹

"Australians are the world's second largest consumers of fashion. On average, they consume 27kgs of new clothing and textiles every year."¹⁰

"Nearly 70 million barrels of oil are used each year to make the world's polyester fiber, which is now the most commonly used fiber in our clothing. But it takes more than 200 years to decompose."¹¹

"Nine out of ten workers interviewed in Bangladesh cannot afford enough food for themselves and their families, forcing them to regularly skip meals and eat inadequately, or go into debt."¹²

"Fast fashion giants make clothing to fall apart: they are obsessed with the bottom line, so will do anything to make you buy more clothes."¹³

"Only 10% of the clothes people donate to thrift stores or charities get sold, the rest goes to landfill."¹⁴



Sources

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