

Nearly every textile can be recycled, despite its condition. Recycling is important because every textile you own has an environmental impact, from the pesticides, water, energy, and natural resources used to create your textile to the pollution it creates when it is sent to a landfill instead of recycled. By limiting waste, you are helping the environment.

One way you can recycle is to give your unwanted clothing to a textile recycling center. Another way is to turn your unwanted clothing into something else. Below are some Do-It-Yourself (DIY) ideas that recycle your old textiles into new products.

#### Activities:

##### 1. Make a T-Shirt Dog Toy

1. Cut used t-shirts into strips 3 inches wide and 18 or more inches long. Use multiple colors to interest.
2. Knot all the strips together at the top, leaving some of the strips above the knot.
3. Divide the strips into three sections and braid the strips until they are about 5 inches from the bottom.
4. Knot the bottom and give the toy to your favorite dog!



##### 2. Make your own bean bag game from old socks

1. Cut off the tops of socks (use different colors).

2. Fill with rice or beans and tie the open ends with yarn, a twist tie or an elastic band.
3. Take old boots or shoes and place them in the yard several feet away. See who can get the most bean bags into a boot.

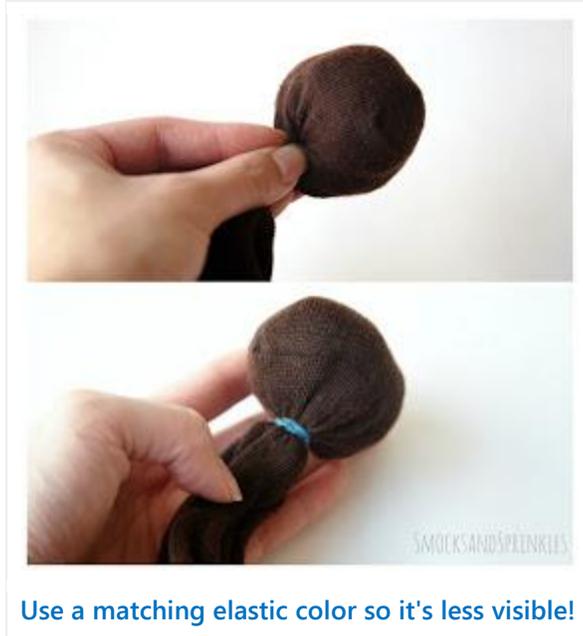
3. **Make a Sock Animal** (idea taken from [smocksandsprinkles.blogspot.com](http://smocksandsprinkles.blogspot.com))



1. Take your sock and open it up over the edge of a tall glass. This will help you keep it open while you stuff it.



2. Bunch up some quilt batting for the head of your animal and stuff it into the sock.
3. Use an elastic or twist tie to cinch the sock closed.



4. Open up the sock over the edge of your glass again, and take enough stuffing for the body of your animal and stuff it into the sock again.



5. Put in a few handfuls of rice or beans to weigh down the bottom of your sock animal. The amount you need will depend on the size of your animal.



6. Secure the end with elastic and trim off any extra sock material. Press the end into your animal so it sits flat.



7. Decorate with any craft item!



4. Find Other DIY Ideas Online!