



GreenNY

Greening Apparel Purchases

Apparel is an integral product for State agencies in providing employees with personal protection and identification through uniforms, as well as providing clothing to patients and inmates. Unfortunately, as apparel items reach the end of their functionality and are no longer able to be used, most end up in landfills. The apparel and textile industries generate huge amounts of waste. To help reduce waste and shift towards a greener apparel industry, follow the guidelines below for purchasing more sustainable apparel and ways to reuse and recycle clothing.

1. Purchase Only What You Need

Limit apparel and textile purchases to the minimum amount required to meet your needs. Avoid purchasing apparel as a promotional or giveaway item and avoid apparel that is branded so that it can only be worn for one specific occasion or short period.

2. Avoid Apparel Labeled as “Dry Clean Only”

Only dry clean if absolutely necessary and ensure cleaning is done in compliance with the [GreenNY specification for garment cleaning](#).

3. Purchase Apparel That Carries a Sustainability Standard

These third-party certifications show that sustainability and/or social responsibility have been factored into the product’s manufacturing. Some to look for include:

- bluesign®
- Cradle to Cradle™
- Fair Trade™
- Global Organic Textile Standard
- Global Recycled Standard
- OEKO TEX® Standard 100
- Responsible Down Standard
- Responsible Wool Standard

4. Caring for Apparel

Entities are encouraged to care for their apparel items by:

- Laundering using detergents that meet the [GreenNY laundry detergent specification](#).
- Only dry clean if absolutely necessary and ensuring that cleaning is done in compliance with the GreenNY specification for garment cleaning.

5. Keep it Out of Landfills

If the item is non-law enforcement apparel and still in useful condition, create a program to have it reused by other agency employees until it is no longer in a useful condition.

When the item is no longer in useful condition, recycle it in a textile recycling program. Visit <https://www.nysar3.org/page/re-clothe-ny-78.html> for ideas on how to recycle textiles.

Follow agency procedures for end-of-life care of law enforcement apparel and try to reuse the fabric from law enforcement apparel for other applications, such as maintenance rags, or recycle the remaining fabric from law enforcement apparel in a textile recycling program.