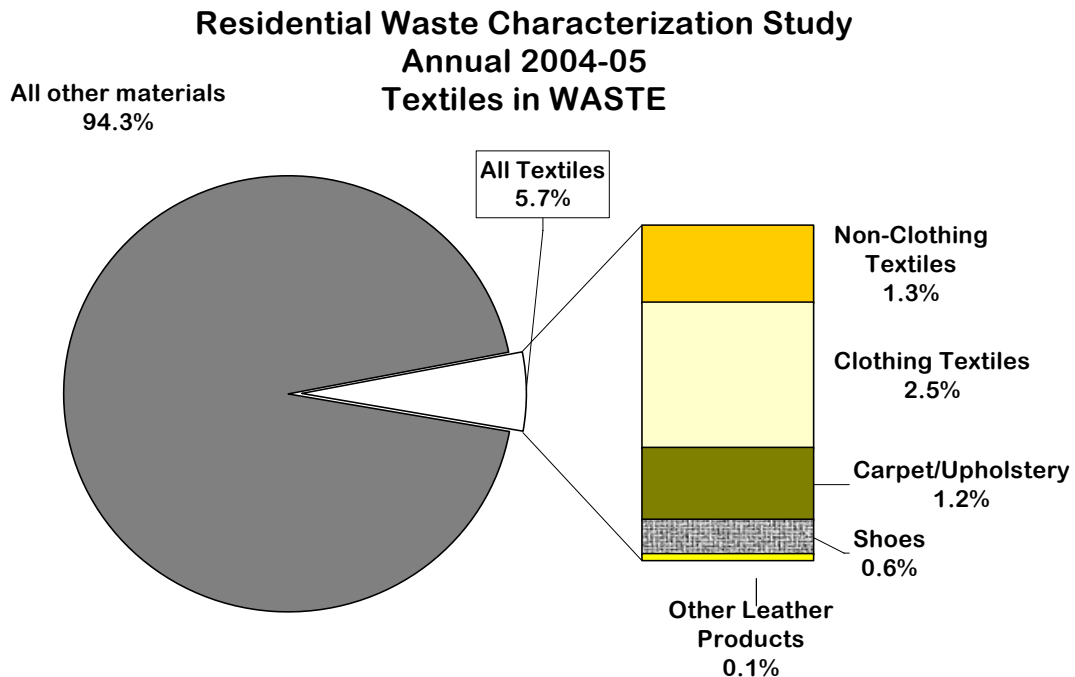


2004-05 NYC RESIDENTIAL WASTE CHARACTERIZATION STUDY

MAJOR FINDINGS ON TEXTILES

In contrast to electronics waste, which is extremely high profile currently in discussions over waste policy, textile waste comprises a much larger, but much less examined, portion of the waste stream. And although thrift shops and informal networks have diverted some textiles from disposal over the years, substantial tonnages are still discarded annually.

Most waste textiles are clothing, followed by non-clothing items such as linens. Carpets and upholstery make up the third largest fraction. For the purposes of this discussion, upholstered furniture in waste is not included. However, data on this fraction of the waste stream is summarized at the end of this section, and is available in more detail in the WCS Final Report.



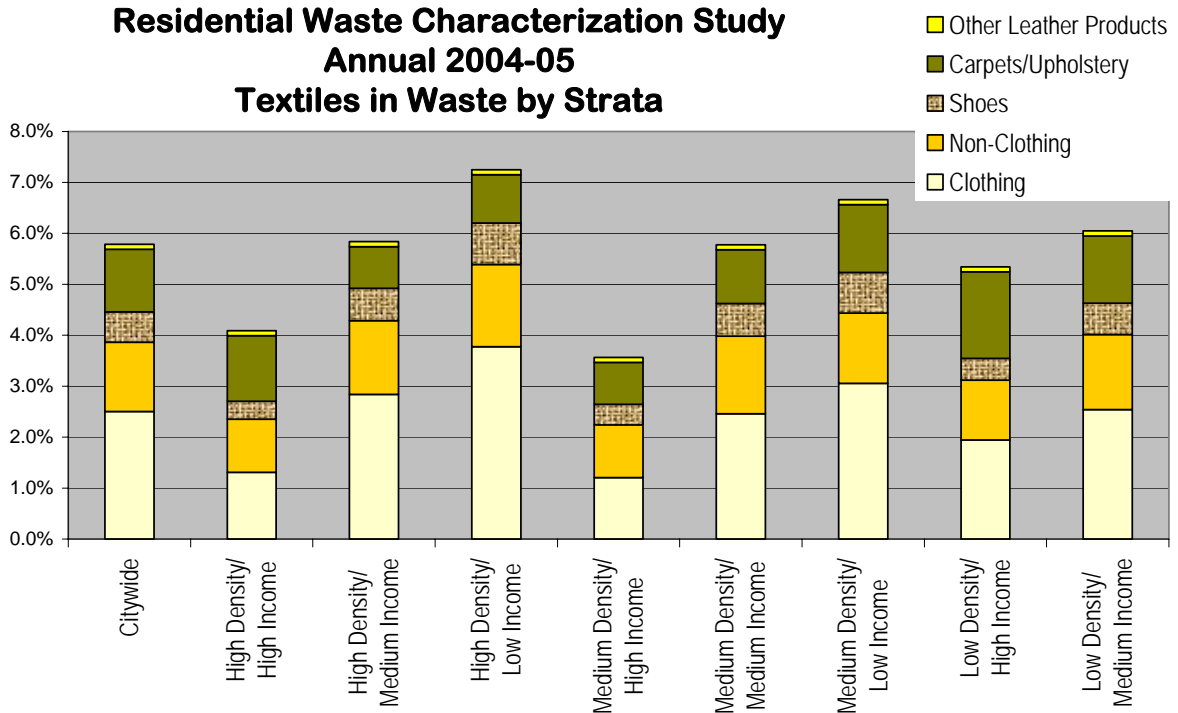
Very few textiles are improperly placed in Recycling. A full 97% of discarded textiles are disposed of in Refuse, and textiles comprise 7% of Refuse overall. This translates to an annual generation of a little over 190,000 tons in Refuse.

ANNUAL TONNAGES	
Non-Clothing Textiles	45,129
Clothing Textiles	83,589
Carpet/Upholstery	41,165
Shoes	19,842
Other Leather Products	3,275
Total Textiles in Refuse	193,000

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DENSITY AND INCOME VARIATIONS

Textile waste generation varies considerably across housing density and income strata. There is a clear inverse relationship between income and textile waste generation. Lower income residents throw out more in the way of used clothing, linens, shoes, and carpets/upholstery than do higher income residents.



97% of all waste textiles are thrown out in the trash; only 3% are improperly discarded with recycling.
Waste Textiles do not include those donated or otherwise reused; only what is collected by DSNY

While the reasons for this relationship are not clear, what is obvious is that waste textiles represent a segment of current discards that should be encouraged to be diverted through enhanced use of existing thrift shop networks. In recognition of this, DSNY has added textiles to its popular e-waste events, and works in partnership with the two major thrift-shop nonprofits – the Salvation Army and Goodwill – to collect donations on e-waste recycling days.

To date, the tonnages collected at these have been small, although thousands of people have participated and enthusiasm for adding textile drop off to these events has been high. The reason for the small diversion of textiles is simply the massive scale of the textile waste stream in relation to the schedule of borough-wide events twice yearly. DSNY is currently working with thrift-shop partners to expand textile collection events in a cost-effective manner, and to incorporate DSNY-sponsored textile diversion into the calculation of the curbside diversion rate.