

Is this shirt sustainable?

Workshop instructions for students

Recyclability
Quality
Ethics



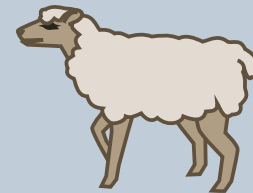
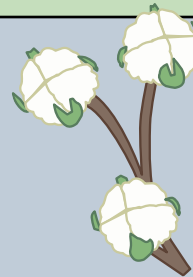
Aalto University
School of Chemical
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Recyclability: material and structure

1. Discuss in pairs, then with the whole class:

- a) What material or materials does the shirt contain?
- b) Are the materials natural, bio-based or synthetic?

Natural	Bio-based	Synthetic
Cotton	Viscose	Polyester
Wool	Lyocell	Elastane
Silk	Cupro	Polyamide/Nailon
Linen	Acetate	Acrylic



Recyclability: material and structure

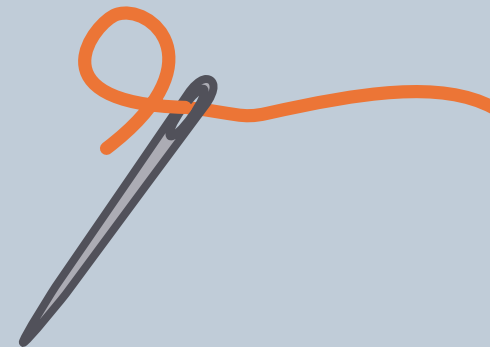
Easy to recycle	Difficult to recycle
Individual materials or chemically similar materials (e.g. cotton + viscose)	Blended materials (mainly elastane makes recycling difficult)
Individual colors	Several colors
No print	Thick printing
Textile only	Zippers, buttons, sequins...
Coarse and loose weaving or knitting	Dense and tight weaving or knitting

2. Discuss in pairs, then with the whole class:

- a) What affects the recyclability of this shirt?
- b) What makes this shirt difficult or easy to repair?



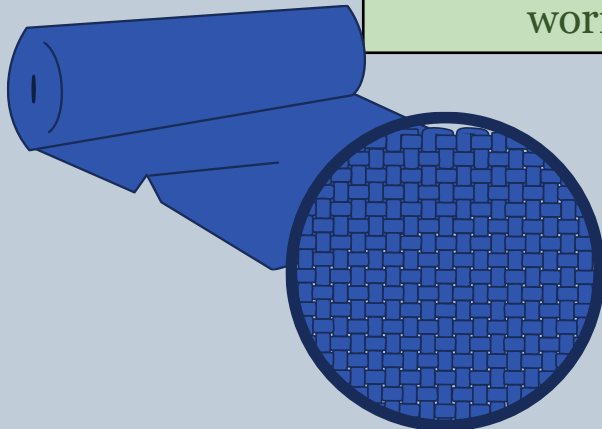
Easy to fix	Difficult to fix
Coarse, thick and uniform fabric	Thin and irregular fabric
Simple design	Complex design



Quality: expected lifetime

**Discuss in pairs,
then with the whole
class:**

Do you find signs of good
and bad quality...

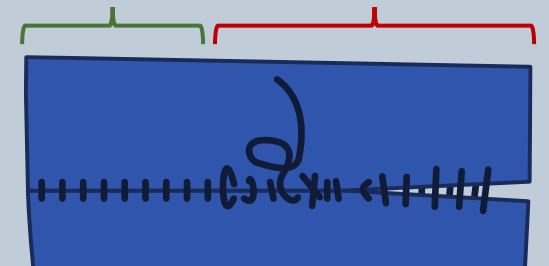


1. On fabric?

Good quality	Poor quality
Uniform fabric thickness	Thicker and thinner spots
Thick and rough fabric	Thin and fragile fabric
Dense and tight weaving or knitting	Loose and sparse weaving or knitting
Not damaged or worn	Visibly damaged or worn

2. In seams?

Good quality	Poor quality
Even stitch length	Varying stitch length
Short stitches	Long stitches
Dense and tight seams	Loose seams
The fabric is flat under the seam	The fabric is wrinkled or warped
Neat looking	Errors, thread ends, etc.



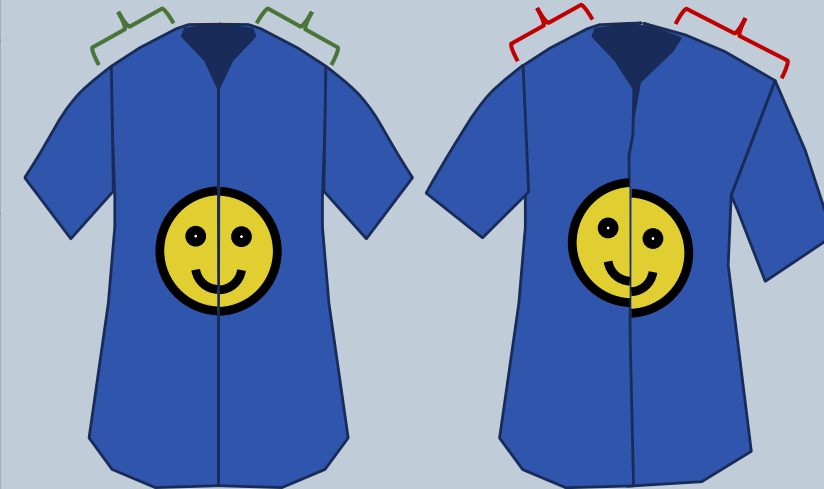
Quality: expected lifetime

3. In the assembly

**Discuss in pairs,
then with the
whole class:**

Do you find signs of
good and bad quality...

Good quality	Poor quality
Patterns match over the seams	Patterns don't match
The shirt is symmetrical (if intended)	The shirt is not symmetrical (even if intended)
Weaving or knitting is straight 	Weaving or knitting is crooked 



A!

Ethics: manufacturer and origin

**Who is the
manufacturer of
this shirt?**
Search for a brand on
goodonyou.eco and
compare in class



Final reflection

Today we learned...

How to identify the material of the clothes.

To study the quality of the clothes.

To determine the ethics and ecology of production.

What do you remember?

Why do the quality, durability and ethics of clothes matter?

Who should be responsible for ensuring the quality, durability and ethics of clothes?

