

## Public Abstract

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Title: An Investigation into Male Apparel Disposal

Textile and apparel disposal in U.S. landfills has grown over time creating environmental concerns. In an effort to reduce textile waste ending up in landfills, this research addresses how consumers currently dispose of unwanted apparel. Understanding attitudes and perceptions associated with disposal of textiles may provide insight on how to raise awareness regarding other options available. This study intends to provide insight into the disposal process by linking all stages of apparel consumption, acquisition, inventory and disposal.

Utilizing a qualitative approach, men between the ages of 30-45 were interviewed. Observations were also utilized at a Goodwill donation site as well as a consignment store. Ten semi-structured interviews were arranged to take place at the participant's home, with most occurring in their bedrooms next to their closets. Prior to the interview, they were asked to select their ten newest acquisitions, and ten that had not been worn in at least two years.

Results of this study focused on prompts regarding apparel disposal, identifying influences for selection of modes of disposal, and the modes of disposal used for six months after the interview. This study contributes to our understanding of current apparel disposal patterns and builds on previous disposal research. Future research could explore how to alter consumers' perceptions regarding the value of worn clothing. Limitations included only interviewing ten men, and could be expanded by including a broader age and demographic range.