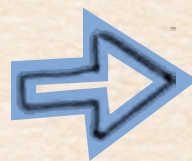
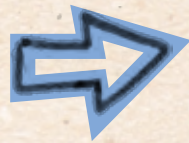


# The Life of a Conventional T-Shirt



**Machines blend**, card, comb, pull, stretch, and twist cotton into ropes of yarn called silvers.



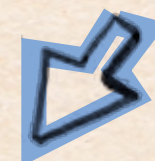
**Yarns** are sent to the mill. Huge machines turn yarn into rough, grey fabric.



**Fabric is dipped into Commercial Bleaches** and dyes until it turns soft and white.



- Bleaches and dyes are made of cancer-causing chemicals such as lead, cadmium, chromium, and mercury.
- Other harmful compounds and chemicals cause widespread contamination when they are released into rivers and oceans as waste waters.
- The world bank estimated that 20% of industrial water pollution comes from the treatment and dyeing of textiles.



**Finished cloth travels to factories in Bangladesh, China, India and Turkey.** Workers stitch cloth into t-shirts.

- Bangladesh is the largest t-shirt manufacturer, employing 4.5 million people.
- Workers typically spend long hours in unsafe factory conditions.
- The average garment worker in Bangladesh makes only 68 USD per month.

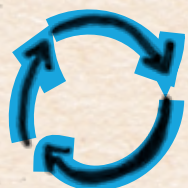


**Clothing is sold** for a price that doesn't factor in natural capital exploited, or human labor involved (the true cost).



**T-shirt is brought home,** worn and washed

- The average American household does 400 loads of laundry per year.
- 16,000 gallons of water per year are used for laundry.
- Dryers use 5-6x more energy than washers.



OR



**When the consumer no longer wants the shirt,** it may be donated, re-used as a rag, or thrown in landfill.

**Industrial cotton gin separates cotton from seeds**

**Cotton is cultivated on farms in America, China or India**

- 713 gallons of water are needed to produce the average t-shirt or 30 bathtubs full.
- Cotton uses more insecticides and herbicides than any other crop in the world. Cotton uses 16% of the world's insecticides and 7% of pesticides. These chemicals are toxic, harm workers, and devastate ecosystems.

## More t-shirt facts

- Clothing production accounts for 10% of global carbon emissions.
- The 3 trillion dollar fashion industry is the 2nd largest polluter in the world, after oil.
- Garment production went up 400% from 1994-2014 to 80 billion garments per year.
- To avoid this cycle, purchase clothing made with organic and fair trade cotton, shop second hand, swap, and only buy what you need!

**2 billion t-shirts are bought and sold every year.** Why does that matter?



**After manufacture,** t-shirts travel by ship, train, and truck to high income countries.

- This process is hugely polluting, and is cut out if t-shirts are produced locally.