CLOTHING | *UPCYCLING*

Some garments in our closets don't get much use. Maybe the color is not quite right. Maybe an item is too big or too small. Maybe it is ripped or stained. Perhaps you wore it so often that you are tired of it. Consider upcycling or refashioning!
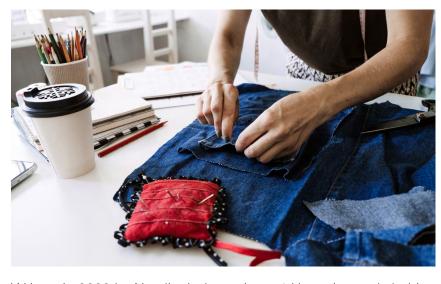
What is upcycling?

Upcycling is when you take an existing garment and refresh or remake it in some way. Here are some ways you can bring new life to old clothes:

- Embroider to cover or fix holes, cover stains, or embellish and beautify.
- Applique or use patches to cover stains or to add visual interest.
- Dye your garment for a color change.
- Take in or let out seams to make it fit the way you like.
- Create a new garment from pieces of one or more original garments by taking them apart and reconstructing them.
- Repurpose a garment for a new use. Examples include turning jeans into a handbag, a men's shirt into an apron, or a t-shirt into a dog toy.

There are many upcycling and refashioning videos online if you are looking for inspiration. Use search terms such as "remake," "upcycle," and "refashion." You could also make a trip to a garage sale, thrift store, or antique shop to find older garments to upcycle.

Why upcycle?

Getting creative with garments is a lot of fun! You could also save money by refreshing existing clothes instead of buying new ones. Finally, keeping textiles out of the landfill is environmentally friendly.

Consideration:

Vintage garments might have historical value, so be sure you really want to refashion them.

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