At Textiles Omnes S.A., we know our planet needs us. That is why we want to inform our clients about the types of waste that may be generated from the use of our textiles and the possible alternatives for their proper management.

Textiles Omnes S.A. manufactures specialized fabrics that meet the specific requirements of different industries. These fabrics are composed almost entirely of synthetic fibers (polymers), and in some cases are treated with a textile finish to provide specific properties.

1. TYPES OF WASTES

The scraps of our textiles, generated mainly during cutting processes, are not considered hazardous solid waste as long as they are not contaminated or part of a composite material classified as hazardous. In such cases, handling and disposal must follow the environmental regulations of each region.

Another type of solid waste generated during the commercialization of our textiles comes from packaging materials, which are most often composed of:

- Plastic, cardboard, or wooden tubes
- Stretch wrap plastic
- Polypropylene protective fabric (raffia)
- Plastic straps and fastening cables
- Paper and cardboard

2. ALTERNATIVES FOR PROPER WASTE MANAGEMENT

We can apply strategies within our companies that reduce the waste generated and manage it more sustainably, leading to cost savings and a reduction in our carbon footprint. Both textile scraps and packaging materials can be recovered and repurposed through the techniques of **Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle**.

(Reduce)

Textiles Omnes S.A. follows a packaging and wrapping process that prevents contamination of textiles during transportation and storage by physical, chemical, or environmental agents that could negatively affect the performance of the product in later processes.

If any client considers that certain packaging elements are unnecessary for their application, or could be reduced, they may send us a written request for review, and, if applicable, the change will be implemented as soon as posible.

reuso

(Reuse)

Before moving to recycling or final disposal, it is possible to evaluate and inventory the waste generated monthly to determine whether any of these materials can be reused.
A common reuse practice in our company is using the reverse side of printed sheets. Similarly, a proper evaluation of our waste could help identify other reuse alternatives applicable to our processes and daily life.

(Recycle)

Recycling begins with separating solid waste at the source to recover reusable materials, reducing the consumption of renewable and non-renewable natural resources.
These elements are then collected, sorted, prepared, and sent to industry to be transformed once again into high-quality raw material for new products. In addition to closing the life cycle of products, recovering materials after consumption helps reduce the amount of usable waste that ends up in landfills.

It is important to mention that Textiles Omnes S.A. has a packaging tube collection program that can be utilized by our clients, improving the management of their solid waste disposal and contributing to the reduction of impacts on natural resources.
To participate, we must receive written communication expressing your interest and commitment to store the tubes for at least one year (depending on consumption). We will respond as soon as possible with further details of the program.

3. OUR PRODUCTS AT THE END OF THEIR USEFUL LIFE

Fabrics produced by Textiles Omnes S.A. that have reached their useful life in the industry can be recovered and repurposed as described above, as long as they are not part of a composite material with hazardous characteristics or have been exposed to substances or agents that classify them as hazardous waste. In such cases, handling and disposal must be carried out in accordance with the environmental regulations of each region.
Fabrics that are part of a composite material, such as conveyor belts and tires, at the end of their productive life become large and complex waste items. Their disposal is costly and represents a loss of valuable resources.
Before proceeding with final disposal, other alternatives to recover and repurpose these products should be evaluated.

(Recovery)

Evaluate whether the product, once it has fulfilled its original function, can give rise to other products with less demanding functional characteristics than the original, thus reducing the need to manufacture new products from virgin raw materials.
For example, conveyor belts can be transformed into gym flooring, stable mats, soil stabilization coverings, among others.

This section also includes a technique not widely known in Latin America but growing and of great importance in some European countries: energy recovery from polymers or plastics.

The combustion of plastics with municipal solid waste can generate electricity that is fed into the power grid for general use.

Modern cogeneration plants (combined heat and power recovery) use polymer waste along with other high-calorific materials, providing a valuable source of heat and energy that can meet up to 10% of the energy needs of some EU countries.

In addition, recovered solid fuels produced from plastic and other solid waste are increasingly used in thermal power plants and in various energy-intensive industries such as cement kilns, reducing the need for virgin fossil fuels.

(Restore)

Consider the possibility of restoring composite materials in order to extend their operational life. Examples include refurbishing conveyor belts by removing the worn surface, applying a new rubber cover, and then performing a complete re-vulcanization of the belt.
Another example is tire retreading, which involves selecting and inspecting a used tire, then applying a new tread through heat and pressure techniques.
In both cases, the end result is a high-quality product that meets the required specifications for its new use.

Applying one or more of these proper waste management alternatives results in environmental, economic, and social benefits: reducing the consumption of renewable and non-renewable resources, lowering greenhouse gas emissions (reduction in the carbon footprint indicator), saving energy costs, and reducing the discharge of solid waste into landfills.

We must always remember: **“Improperly managed waste deposited in landfills generates a great environmental impact, pollutes the air, water, and soil, and poses a danger to the health of all living beings.”**

At Textiles Omnes S.A., we are committed to improving our environmental performance every day, and we want to extend this to our suppliers and clients. For this reason, we share this information as a tool for continuous improvement and environmental awareness.

“Giving a hand to the environment is worth a lot and costs little.”.

TEXTILES OMNES S.A.
TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT
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