

Transcript for Episode 9 – Textiles

Lisa: Morning Alison. How are you doing today?

Alison: Good morning Lise. I'm good thanks, you?

Lisa: Yes, thank you. Now, I've been thinking it's second-hand September and I was thinking about what we do with textiles and clothing and where that goes. I'm available for talks for recycling virtually at the moment for schools and community groups. I can give free talks if you contact me on lisa.collas@ansa.co.uk. So I basically tell people you can't put textiles or clothing in your silver bin but I need inspiration on what can you do with them Alison? What are the alternative ways? Yeah that's really good. This is something we need to give more consideration to because there are some quite scary statistics about textiles. We do need to really start having a more sustainable approach to fashion and a lot of the companies are doing this. Did you know that 85% of all textiles go into the landfill each year?

Lisa: Oh no, that's a lot.

Alison: Yeah I know but the reality is we only wear 20% of our clothes 80% of the time.

Lisa: Really?

Alison: Yep. So do we really need something new or can we buy second-hand. So these are the sorts of questions we've got to start asking ourselves because a lot of this clothing ends up in the dump. The equivalent of one waste truck full of clothes is burned or dumped in landfill every second and it's not good for the environment. So what we want to do is start thinking about what can we do with a textiles, when perhaps don't want to wear them anymore and we are having a tidy out. You've got the option of charity shops because if they are not good enough for re-selling, you've got good avenues to get rid of them in other ways and repurpose them. You've also got the clothes banks as well, so as long as they're clean and fit for purpose. If not perhaps you can repurpose them, so for example I've got pyjamas and if they get a hole in, then I'll give them to my husband and he will cut them up for clothes for the garage for DIY or cleaning his car. Have you got a crafty friend that would be grateful for the fabrics and can make things out of it. So there are other ways of repurposing and recycling. So we have to do that as much as possible. You might be able to use it as a pet bed or do some sewing and make some gifts for people at Christmas that and more eco-friendly. It's just thinking a little bit more about when you're buying new fabrics all the time - do I really need to buy something new.

Lisa: Right that's lovely. Thank you so much Allison. So in a nutshell, anything that isn't stained or ripped can be put to another purpose. Anything that is stained or ripped, that would have to go in your black bin. Other details can be found on our Waste Watchers app, so keep checking in on that regular and look at the different recycling tips we've put on there for you. Thank you Alison.

Alison: Bye.

Lisa: Bye everybody.