

A close-up photograph of a closet filled with numerous t-shirts of various colors, including yellow, green, orange, pink, red, purple, blue, and grey. The shirts are hanging vertically, creating a vibrant, multi-colored background. In the center of the image, there is a white, rounded rectangular text box containing the title.

The Life Cycle of a T-shirt



We produce
yearly
around
25 000 000
tons of cotton



THE TOP COTTON PRODUCERS 2022

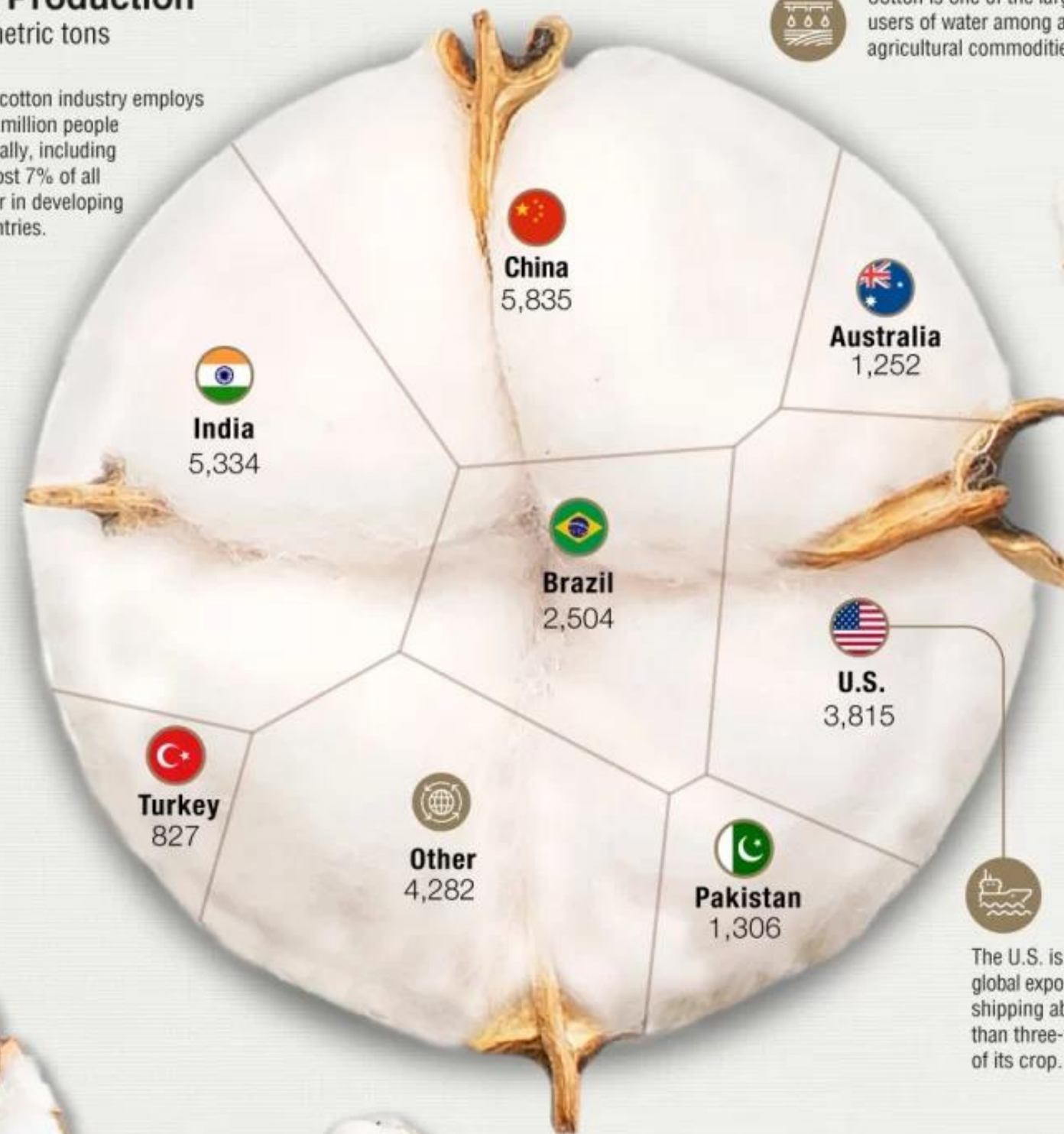
As the most-used natural fiber, cotton has become the most important non-food agricultural product. Five countries make up 74% of the global production.

Cotton Production* In 1,000 metric tons

 The cotton industry employs 250 million people globally, including almost 7% of all labor in developing countries.



Cotton is one of the largest users of water among all agricultural commodities.

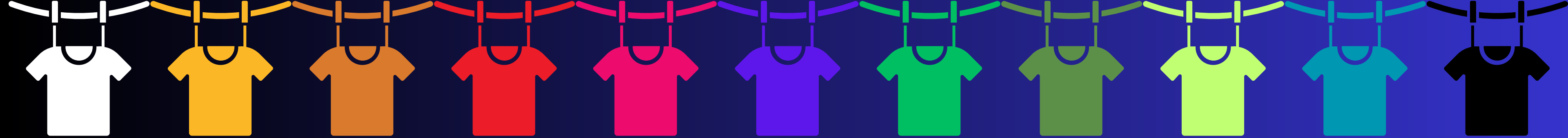


The U.S. is the leading global exporter of cotton, shipping abroad more than three-fourths of its crop.

*2021/2022 Season

Source: Foreign Agricultural Service/USDA, WWF, The World Counts

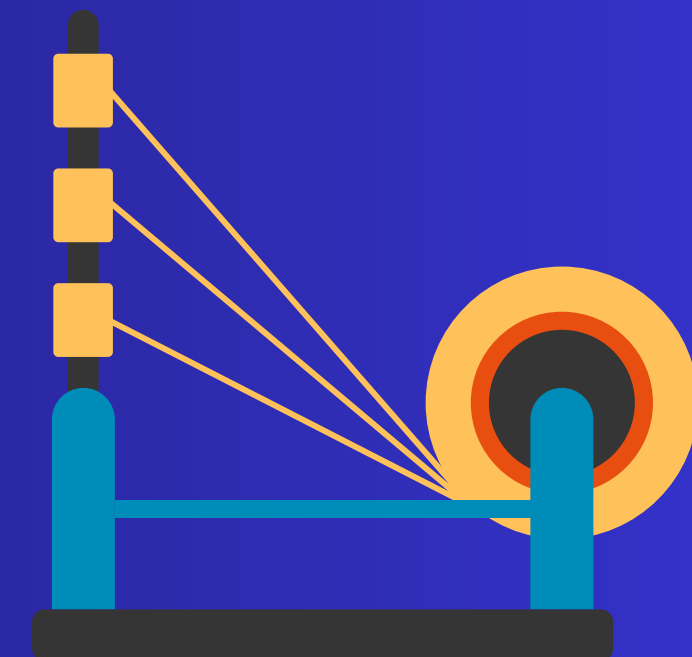


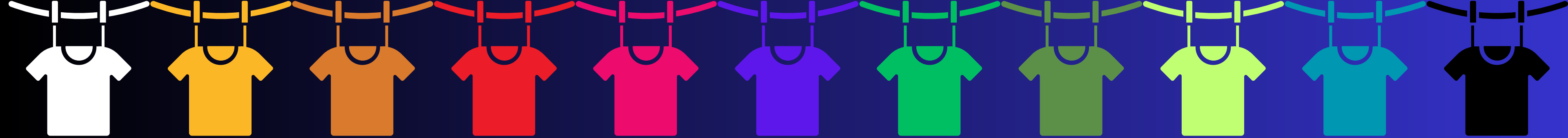


The United States has the largest share of exports. The largest buyer on the global market is China.

Spinning facilities are usually located in China and India.

Cotton strips are then woven into the grey fabric.

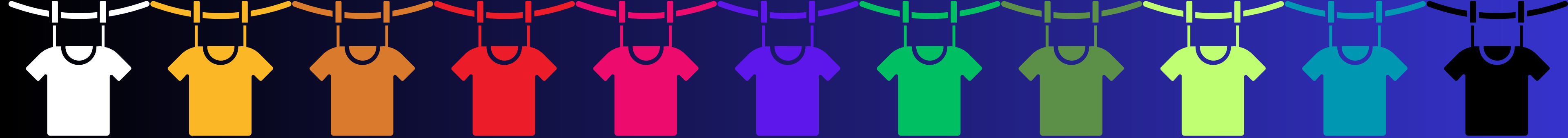




The cotton is then chemically treated to make it soft and bleached to make it white and dyed into all the colours of the rainbow.

Unfortunately, those dyes contain harmful chemicals, like cadmium, lead, chromium and others.

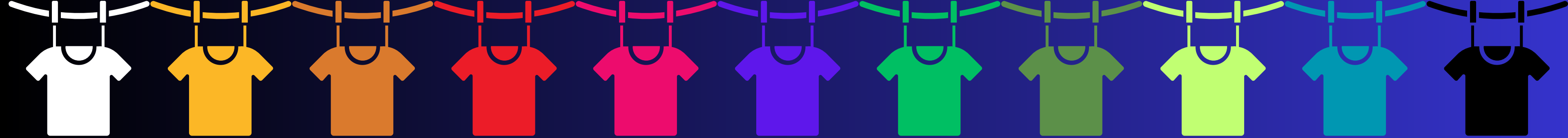




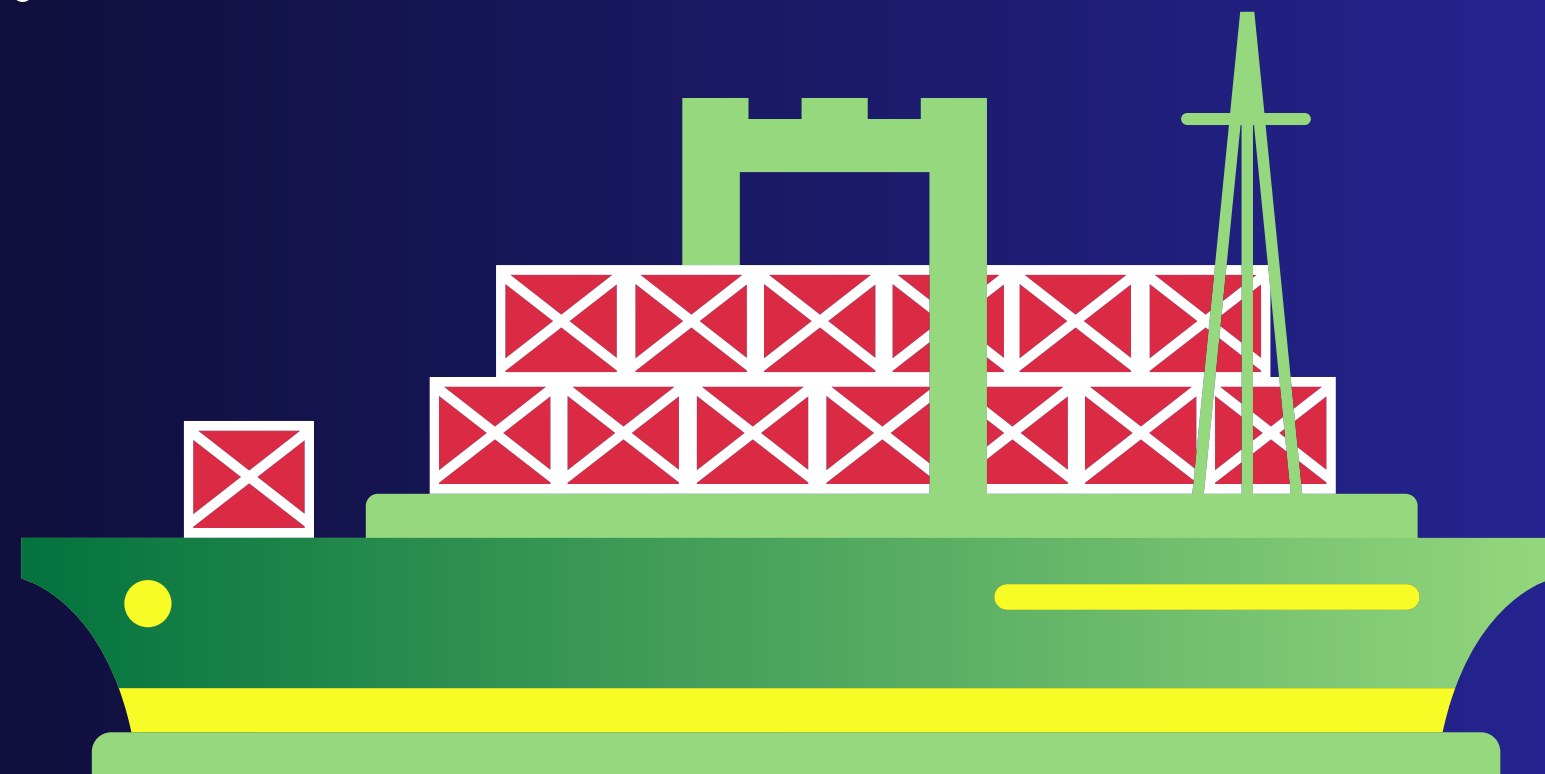
Most clothes are currently produced in China, Bangladesh and Thailand.

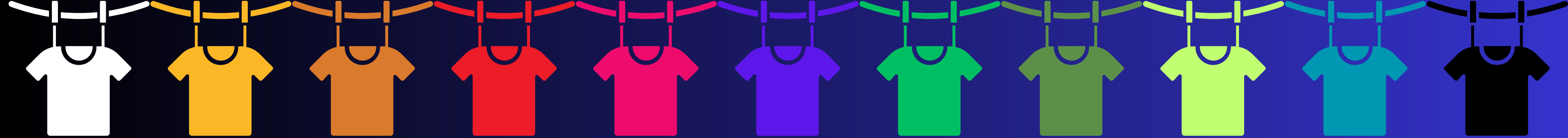
These are countries where "cheap labour" - including children - is easily available, and workers' rights and environmental protection are almost non-existent.



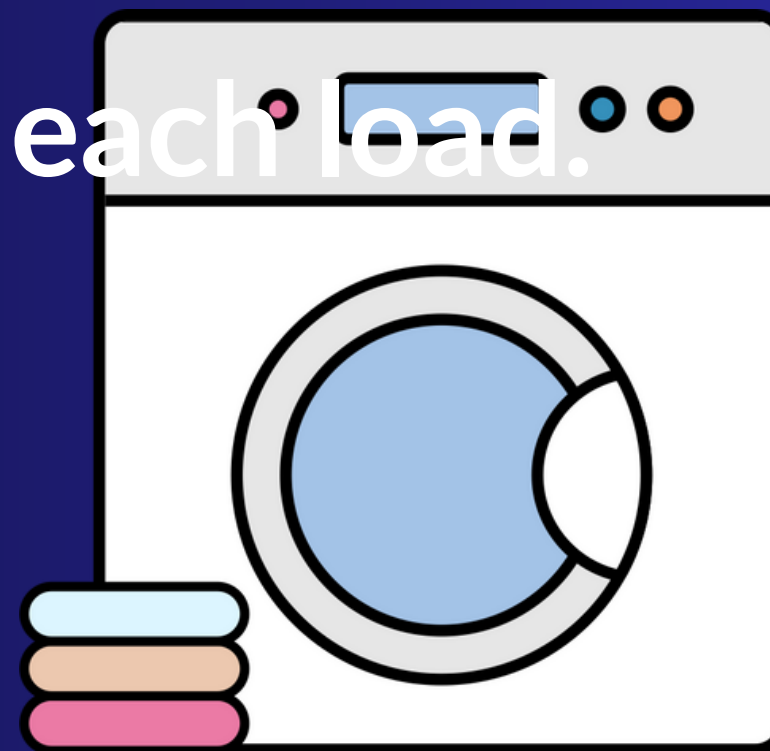


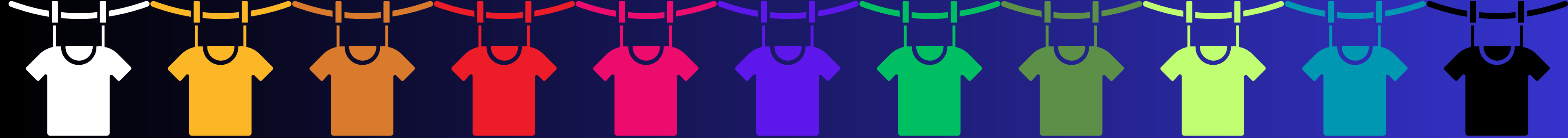
Once the T-shirts are ready, they are sent to stores around the world. To survive a long voyage, often by sea, they are "preserved" with another portion of chemicals.





After purchasing the T-shirt, it enters its next resource-intensive phase. The average US household does nearly 400 loads of laundry per year, using about 150 litres of water and consuming energy to wash each load.



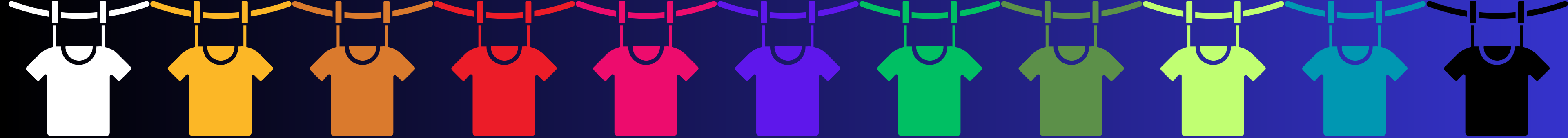


According to earth.org:

“The throwaway culture has worsened progressively over the years. At present, many items are worn only seven to ten times before being tossed.”

“Fast fashion brands are producing twice the amount of clothes today than in 2000.”

“Of the 100 billion garments produced each year, 92 million tonnes end up in landfills.”



One T-shirt =
2500 liters of water
0,5 of fossil fuels
100 grams of fertilizers
4,5 grams of pesticides



source: evergreendesignco.wordpress.com