

# Meet Baxter Boll!

Hi!

My name's Baxter.



I'm a cotton boll, which means I'm on my way to becoming a t-shirt, a towel, a pair of jeans, or something else made with cotton.

Let me show you how it happens!

## The Cotton Lifecycle

### 1. Seed

All cotton plants start out as a seed.



### 2. Sprout

Soon the seed grows into a sprout.



### 3. Square

After about two months, the cotton plant produces a flower bud, called a square.



### 4. Boll

The cotton flowers bloom after a few weeks. Then, a few weeks after that, the flowers shed their petals and the cotton plant forms a boll — that's me! A boll is a seed pod that looks like a little green football.



### 5. Fiber

It takes about two months for the boll to fill up with cotton fibers. Once full, it bursts open and the fields are covered with fluffy white cotton.



### 6. Harvest

Cotton farmers use big machines to pull the plants out of the ground and separate the cotton fibers from the rest of the plant. Then they send the fiber to a cotton gin, where it is cleaned.



### 7. Yarn

Once it is cleaned, the cotton fiber goes to a spinning mill where it is turned into different types of yarn.



### 8. Fabric

Cotton yarn is used to make fabric for towels, sheets, totes, and many different types of clothing that is in our closets, like t-shirts, socks, and denim jeans. Because it's made from cotton, denim lasts. It can be worn for a long time.



### 9. Recycling

But when denim jeans are worn out, they can be recycled! The cloth is turned back into cotton fiber, which is used to make insulation for homes, packaging, and even pet bedding. This helps keep tons of old denim clothes out of the trash, which helps protect our environment. You can learn more about recycling denim at [bluejeansgogreen.org/recycle-denim](https://bluejeansgogreen.org/recycle-denim)!



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