



## **Repreve: Recycled Yarn by Unifi**

Textile-maker Unifi stumbled upon a big success when it began producing recycled yarn under the brand Repreve at its Yadkinville plant.

Repreve was recently featured on the Discovery Channel television show "How It's Made."

Unifi uses post-consumer waste and its own pre-consumer waste in the production of Repreve. For every pound of Repreve yarn, Unifi estimates that the equivalent of a half gallon of gasoline is conserved.

### TV segment

With 1,100 employees, Unifi is not only one of Yadkin county's largest employers; it's also one of the largest area textile plants still in operation. And part of this company's largest success is thanks to this small plastic chip and the product it ultimately makes.

"Repreve means a second chance. So certainly we're trying to give our waste a second chance."

Roger Berrier is Unifi's vice president, and over the past two years the company's executives have worked to figure out a way to use discarded water bottles and the waste they create while making traditional polyester. The plant's fiber waste was once sold off for lower end use like stuffing, but not anymore.

"We send it off to our recycling center along with the collection of our plastic bottles, and our waste along with the plastic bottles materials are remelted and filtered and then made back into polyester chips."

What was once plant waste and water bottles ends up on store shelves across the country as fleece vests, blankets, even t-shirts.

"Some of the people that we're working with are the major brands. Whether it's Nike or Patagonia or North Face or L.L. Bean, all of these brands and retailers are using the Repreve product produced here in Yadkinville."