



Reuse Opportunities

It has often been said that one person's trash is another person's treasure. Instead of discarding unwanted items, try donating or selling them. Not only will you be reducing waste, you'll be helping others. Local churches, community centers, thrift stores, schools, nonprofit organizations and other organizations may accept a variety of donated items. Check out the reuse opportunities below and look for additional opportunities in your area.

Architectural Items – *Recycling the Past, Inc.* is an architectural salvage company that specializes in architectural salvage for the home and garden. This company might be interested in architectural items that you no longer want or need. www.recyclingthepast.com

Bicycles – *Pedals for Progress* accepts donations of used bicycles which are then shipped to developing countries where they are used for basic transportation, and as a resource for school and community programs. <http://www.p4p.org/>

Binders – Many schools will accept donations of used binders. Check with your local school district.

Books – Most libraries will accept donations of books. Many schools will also accept donations of books. Stores that sell used books might also be interested in the books that you no longer want or need.

Books – *New Legacy Books* is an organization that collects used books in New Jersey through a donation bin system. Books will be resold to individuals that can give the books a new home at the same time raising funds for organizations in the community. <http://www.newlegacybooks.com/>

Boxes (Corrugated Cardboard) - In an effort to reduce waste, *U-Haul's Box Exchange* program helps customers sell, give away, or find used corrugated cardboard boxes. <https://www.uhaul.com/Exchange/>

Bras - The *Bra Recyclers*, based in Arizona, collect unwanted bras and donates them to women's shelters. The company receives 4,000 bras per month and supplies more than 40 shelters around the country. www.brarecycling.com

Bras – *I Support the Girls* is a nonprofit organization that accepts donations of new and gently used bras which are then distributed to girls and women experiencing homelessness. <https://isupportthegirls.org/>

Bricks – Old bricks that are still in good shape can be cleaned up and reused. Check with local recyclers of construction and demolition waste or architectural salvage companies to see if they would be interested in your old bricks for sale as reclaimed bricks. Companies that recycle various components of construction and demolition debris can be found on the NJDEP's database of Class B recycling centers at <https://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/lrm/classb.htm>

Building Materials – *Habitat for Humanity's ReStores* are retail establishments that sell quality used and surplus building materials at reduced prices. Building materials sold at ReStores are donated by building supply stores, contractors, demolition crews and the general public. <http://www.habitat.org/restores>

Clothes – *Goodwill Industries International, Inc.* and the *Salvation Army* both accept used clothing donations. <http://www.goodwill.org/donate-and-shop/> and <http://www.salvationarmyusa.org/>

Clothes – Consignment shops are stores that sell secondhand items (typically clothing and accessories) on behalf of the original owner, who receives a percentage of the selling price. Search online for consignment shops near you.

Compact Discs - Most libraries will accept donations of used CDs. Check with your local library.

DVDs - Most libraries will accept donations of used DVDs. Check with your local library.

Eyeglasses – *Lions Clubs International* accepts donations of used eyeglasses and distributes them to people in need in low and middle income communities where they will have the greatest impact. Eyeglasses can be donated via Lions collection boxes or by mail. <https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/resources-for-members/resource-center/eyeglass-recycling-centers>

Eyeglasses – *New Eyes* is a nonprofit organization that distributes used, donated eyeglasses to the disadvantaged in developing countries. <https://new-eyes.org/about-us>

Food (surplus) – There are numerous food banks/pantries in New Jersey that accept donations of surplus food. For a nearby food bank/pantry location, visit http://www.foodpantries.org/st/new_jersey

Food (surplus) - *Rock and Wrap It Up! (tm) Inc.* is a nonprofit organization that helps recover extra food from music and sporting events, among other places. The food is then donated to shelters. <http://www.rockandwrapitup.org/>

Glasses (see "Eyeglasses" above)

Household Items/Furnishings - *Goodwill Industries International, Inc.*, the *Salvation Army* and other charitable organizations accept used household items and furnishings for reuse. <http://www.goodwill.org/donate-and-shop/> and <http://www.salvationarmyusa.org/>

Industrial Items – *repurposedMATERIALS, Inc.* accepts industrial byproducts and waste streams and "repurposes" these items, giving them a second life with a new use. Examples: retired street sweeping brushes are repurposed as backscratchers for horses or cattle; billboard

vinyls are repurposed as tarps, covers and liners; and rubber conveyor belts are repurposed as fencing and industrial flooring. <http://www.repurposedmaterialsinc.com/index.php?p=home>

Kitchens (Luxury) – *Renovation Angel* is an organization that will help you donate your old luxury kitchen for reuse purposes as you undergo a renovation on your kitchen. <http://renovationangel.org/>

Medical Equipment – *Goodwill Home Medical Equipment* collects, sanitizes, refurbishes and sells gently-used, durable medical equipment and unopened medical supplies at affordable prices. <https://www.goodwillhomemedical.org/>

Miscellaneous Items – Charitable organizations may be interested in miscellaneous items that you no longer want or need (example, toys). Check with local charitable organizations before putting usable items in the trash.

Miscellaneous Items – *Anything But Costumes* is a full service prop rental house that makes available items needed for theatre, film, television, trade shows, events, displays, parties, and photography. This organization may be interested in some of the items that you no longer want or need (example, trophies, household items). <http://www.anythingbutcostumes.com/home/>

Miscellaneous Items – *Freecycle* is a grassroots and nonprofit movement of people who are giving (and getting) stuff for free in their own towns and neighborhoods via an online exchange. It's all about reuse and keeping good stuff out of landfills. Each local group is moderated by local volunteers. Membership is free. <https://www.freecycle.org/>

Office Furniture – Office furniture (desks, chairs, filing cabinets, etc.) that is old and no longer wanted, but still usable, can be donated to and reused by other organizations in need of such items. Check with local nonprofit organizations to see if there is any interest in your old office furniture.

Paint – Leftover paint that is in good condition can be donated to: friends and relatives who admire the color schemes of your home; community groups, such as churches, schools and non-profit organizations that are involved with community housing projects; and artist groups that create murals or do painting projects. You can also sell or donate your leftover paint through a garage sale or on free online sites.

Pallets (Wood) – Wood pallets that are broken can be repaired and reused. Check with local pallet companies about reuse opportunities. Many wood pallet recycling companies also repair and reuse old pallets. Such companies can be found on the NJDEP's database of Class B recycling centers at <https://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/lrm/classb.htm>.

Polystyrene Packing "Peanuts" – Consumers can drop off polystyrene plastic packing "peanuts" at over 500 collection sites in the US. <https://www.pakmail.com/recycling-packing-supplies>

Sewing Machines - *Pedals for Progress* accepts donations of used sewing machines which are then shipped to developing countries where they become productive assets for the poor. The

sewing machines are provided to non-profit vocational education programs, small businesses, community service programs and individuals. <http://www.p4p.org/>

Shoes (Footwear) - *Soles4Souls* collects used shoes and distributes them to those in need free of charge. Over 10 million pairs of shoes have been reused and thus kept out of landfills. www.soles4souls.com

Sports Equipment – There are many organizations that are eagerly looking for donations of new or used sporting equipment. These non-profit organizations then distribute the donated sporting equipment to needy communities in the United States, as well as to developing countries in need of assistance.

Baseball/Softball Equipment Donations: <http://pifb.org/how-to-help/donate-equipment/>

Soccer Equipment Donations: <https://ussoccerfoundation.org/programs/passback>

Tennis Balls – *reBounces, LLC*, based in Harrison, Arkansas, is in the business of recharging “dead” tennis balls. The company uses a patented re-pressurization system that puts the bounce back into the tennis balls, thereby extending their lives as practice balls. *reBounces* sells the re-pressurized practice tennis balls at a reduced price to consumers. <https://rebounces.com/about-us/recycle-tennis-balls/>

Toner Cartridges – Toner cartridges can be refurbished and then reused. Contact local companies that sell toner cartridges about reuse opportunities.

Toys - The non-profit *Second Chance Toys* keeps rigid plastic toys out of landfills by promoting their collection and then arranging for the toys to be donated to local organizations serving disadvantaged children. <http://www.secondchancetoys.org/>

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Contact: Steven Rinaldi, NJDEP, Bureau of Sustainability, 609-633-0538, Steven.Rinaldi@dep.nj.gov