

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 – Better World Books is an organization that collects used books through a Book Drop Box program. The donated books are brought to the organization's sorting facility, and are carefully examined to determine if they are able to be sold, donated or recycled. <http://www.betterworldbooks.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

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 <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dshw/lrm/classbsch.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.

Clothes (and Accessories) – SwapStyle is a free online site where people can swap clothes and accessories with people from around the world. www.swapstyle.com

Clothes (and Textiles) – There are numerous organizations throughout New Jersey that collect old clothes for reuse via donation boxes. For information on the location of donation boxes near you, visit <http://www.weardonaterecycle.org/>.

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. <http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/how-we-serve/health/sight/eyeglass-recycling.php>

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

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/>