



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, but you will be helping others. Local churches, community centers, thrift stores, schools, nonprofit organizations, and other organizations will often accept a variety of donated items. Check out the reuse opportunities below and look for additional opportunities in your area.

Appliances - *Habitat for Humanity's ReStores* accept donations of new and gently used appliances. <https://www.habitat.org/restores/donate-goods>

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

Bags (Reusable Shopping Bags) – Food pantries, soup kitchens and other food relief organizations accept donated reusable shopping bags and use them for distributing food to the needy, <https://cfbnj.org/donate-reusable-shopping-bags/>

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/>

Bicycles - The *Boys & Girls Clubs of Mercer County Bike Exchange* is a volunteer-led enterprise that repairs donated bicycles and sells them at modest prices at its Ewing location. All proceeds from the sales of bikes benefit the Boys & Girls Clubs of Mercer County. <https://www.bgcmercer.org/bgc-bike-exchange>

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

Books – Most libraries 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 Morris County 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/index.html>

Books – *BookSmiles* is a non-profit organization that collects, sorts, and redistributes used children's books and provides them at no cost to teachers and children in need of books.
<https://www.booksmiles.org/>

Boxes (Corrugated Cardboard) - 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 <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 public.
<https://www.habitat.org/restores/donate-goods>

Clothes – *Goodwill Industries International, Inc.* and the *Salvation Army* both accept used clothing donations. <https://www.goodwill.org/donors/donate-stuff/> and <https://satruck.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 – *thredUP* is an online consignment and thrift store that was created to keep used clothing out of landfills and to reduce the cost of fashion. <https://www.thredup.com/about>

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.wearonaterecycle.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.
<https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/explore-our-clubs/eyeglasses-and-hearing-aids-recycling>

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) – *Mercer Street Friends*, <https://mercerstreetfriends.org/food-donations/>; *Community Food Bank of New Jersey*, <https://cfbnj.org/>; *Rutgers Against Hunger*, <https://rah.rutgers.edu/resources/local-pantries/>; *Food Bank of South Jersey*, <https://foodbanksj.org/>

Food (surplus) - *Farmers Against Hunger*, a nonprofit organization based in Bordentown, was started in 1996 as a way to enable farmers throughout New Jersey to contribute their extra produce to those in need. For more information, visit <http://www.njagsociety.org/fah.html>

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/>

Furniture and Household Goods - *Habitat for Humanity's ReStores* accept donations of new and gently used furniture and household goods. <https://www.habitat.org/restores/donate-goods>

Furnishings and Household Goods - *Goodwill Industries International, Inc.*, the *Salvation Army* and other charitable organizations accept used household items and furnishings for reuse. <https://www.goodwill.org/donors/donate-stuff/> and <https://satruck.org/>

Glasses (see "Eyeglasses" above)

Hearing Aids - The *Hearing Aid Project* accepts all types of used hearing aids – any age, any brand, and any model. No matter how old or what brand your hearing aid is, it can be used to help someone in need. <https://hearingaid donations.org/give-an-aid/donate/>

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 (for example, toys). Check with local charitable organizations before putting usable items in the trash.

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

Polystyrene Packing "Peanuts" and Packaging – Many shipping/mail centers accept used plastic (polystyrene) packing peanuts and packaging for reuse. Check with local shipping/mail centers to see if they provide this service.

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) - There are numerous organizations throughout New Jersey that collect old footwear for reuse via donation boxes. For information on the location of donation boxes near you, visit <http://www.weardonaterecycle.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. <https://soles4souls.org/give-shoes/>

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

Miscellaneous Sports Equipment: *Leveling the Playing Field*, <https://www.levelingtheplyingfield.org/locations/philadelphia-pa/>

Baseball/Softball Equipment Donations. *Pitch in For Baseball and Softball*, <https://pifbs.org/for-donors/donate-equipment/>

Soccer Equipment Donations. *Cleat for Feet* (soccer cleats and soccer equipment), <https://www.cleatforfeet.org/donate>; *Cleats for Camden* (soccer cleats and soccer goalie gloves), <https://www.cleatsforcamden.com/>

Ice Hockey Equipment Donations. *Hockey in New Jersey* accepts gently worn and/or fairly new hockey equipment, including sticks, bags, and socks - no jerseys please, <https://www.hockeyinnj.com/equipmentdonations#:~:text=We%20accept%20gently%20worn%20and,at%20druppe%40hockeyinnj.com>; *Ed Snider Youth Hockey & Education*, <https://sniderhockey.org/support-snider/>

Tennis Balls – *reBounces, LLC*, 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://www.tennisballrecycling.com/>

Tennis Balls – *Recycle Balls*, a nonprofit organization dedicated to recycling old tennis balls, has kept almost 12 million old tennis balls out of landfills through their reuse and recycling program. www.recycleballs.org

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

Toys - The non-profit organization *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/>

Turf (Artificial) - *Artificial Grass Recyclers* buys old artificial turf fields and sells reused turf to those looking for less expensive turf for a project. For more details, visit <https://artificialgrassrecyclers.com/buy-artificial-turf-direct/>

Updated: 10/23

Contact: Steven Rinaldi, NJDEP, Bureau of Sustainability, Steven.Rinaldi@dep.nj.gov