

Information on Recycling Household Items

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS: DROP OFF AT THEIR SITES

- **Catholic Charities** accepts personal care items like blankets, sheets, gloves, shoes, and socks. Also furniture (pick-up available); no clothing. Call 612-664-8500 or visit www.ccspm.org.
- **Disabled American Veterans** accepts clothing, housewares, some furniture. Neighborhood pick-ups available in some areas or drop off at their shop located on University and Dale in St Paul. Call 651-487-2002.
- **Epilepsy Foundation** accepts most household items (clothing, shoes, bedding items, housewares, toys, games, tools, small appliances, and some furniture (no mattresses or sleeper sofas.) Drop off at their office at Snelling and University in St Paul. Neighborhood pick-ups available in some areas. Visit www.efmn.org or call 651-287-2300.
- **Goodwill** accepts furniture, cars, clothing, books, toys and more. Call 651-646-2591.
- **Joseph's Coat** accepts clothing & shoes, cookware & dishes, small appliances, bed & bath linens, puzzles, games & books, and personal care items. Visit www.josephscoatmn.org or call 651-291-2472.
- **Salvation Army** accepts clothing, housewares. Call 651-771-7779. .

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS: PICK-UP SERVICE IN THE TWIN CITIES

- **Epilepsy Foundation** accepts most household items (clothing, shoes, bedding items, housewares, toys, games, tools, small appliances, and some furniture (no mattresses or sleeper sofas, however.) Neighborhood pick-ups available in some areas. Visit www.efmn.org or call 651-287-2300.

CLOTHING ONLY

- **Dress For Success** — aims to advance low-income women's economic and social development and to encourage self-sufficiency through career development and employment retention. Dress for Success currently accepts new or nearly-new and cleaned: Coordinated, contemporary, interview-appropriate skirt and pant suits; crisp blouses; blazers and jackets; and professional shoes. They are particularly in need of larger-size suits. Visit www.dressforsuccess.org.

CELL PHONES

- **Best Buy** provides free and easy recycling for any brand of cell phone.
- **The AT&T Wireless Reuse & Recycle Program** accepts free drop-offs of all brands of unwanted cell phones and accessories at AT&T Wireless retail stores.
- **Sprint Project Connect** offers free drop-off of all brands of wireless phones at Sprint Stores.
- **Staples** office supply stores offer free drop-off recycling services for used cell phones.
- Through the **Verizon Wireless HopeLine** Phone Recycling Program, consumers get free drop-off recycling services for used cell phones at retail store locations.

COMPUTERS/OFFICE FURNITURE

- **Project 4 Pride in Living** in NE Minneapolis accepts working computers, fax machines, typewriters, office furniture, and residential furniture. Visit www.pplshop.org or call 612-789-3322.
- **MNTAP** materials exchange helps prevent usable business materials from becoming waste. Visit www.mnexchange.org or call 612-624-5119.
- **Minnesota Computers for Schools** refurbishes relatively new (and working) computers for classrooms. Call 651-779-2700 ext 2656 or visit www.mncfs.org.
- **Computer Service Center** in Blaine provides *free* recycling of cell phones, printer cartridges, computers, VCRs, keyboards, computer mice, speakers, power cords, radios, headphones, external computer devices, stereos, and software. There is a disposal charge for printers, copiers, scanners, televisions, and computer monitors. Call 763-783-8600 for details.
- **PCs for People** refurbishes newer computers (six years or newer) and distribute them to disadvantaged people. They are located in Mankato, MN and are also creating a new office in Minneapolis. For details, visit www.pcsforpeople.com, email csorensen@pcsforpeople.com, or call 507-351-6571.
- **Computer Service Center** in Blaine offers free recycling of computers, printer cartridges/toner, keyboards, computer mice, speakers, power cords, radios, headphones, external computer devices, stereos, and software. There is a minimal charge to recycle printers, copiers, scanners, tv's, and monitors. Drop off or arrange pick up. Will remove hard drive information safely for you. Call 763-783-8600.
- The **Minnesota Materials Exchange** program is a free service that links organizations that have reusable goods they no longer need to those who can use them. They accept business-related items in good, usable condition. Visit <http://mnexchange.org>.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

- **Goodwill** accepts used medical appliances such as crutches, walkers, wheelchairs, raised toilet seats and shower seats. Take to any Goodwill store and they will clean and repair them before taking them to their Fairview Avenue store. They will rent these items out for free or a small fee.

ART PROJECTS MATERIALS

- **Artscraps** in St Paul (St Clair and Snelling Ave) will take items that could be used for any type of art or craft project, from metal scraps to margarine tubs. 651-698-ARTS or www.artstart.org. In Minneapolis, Funktional Art will take similar objects. Also try your local Parks and Rec to donate anything that could be used for art projects for children. Also try the Science Museum of Minnesota.
- Visit www.makestuff.com for fun projects to make with recycled materials.
- **Leonardo's Basement** in Minneapolis accepts items for their kids' classes and projects, everything from prescription bottles to art supplies, from hand tools to gadgets. Visit www.leonardosbasement.org/1help.php or call (612) 824-4394.

BATTERIES

- **Radio Shack and Target** will take back used small button batteries used in watches, hearing aids, cameras, etc. These should NOT be thrown in the trash. Service stations are required to take back automotive lead acid batteries. Rechargeable batteries, such as those for cell phones and cordless power tools, should NOT be thrown in the trash. Visit www.rbrc.org for a list of retailers who accept them, including Target, Radio Shack, and Home Depot. Common alkaline batteries used in toys and flashlights CAN be thrown in the trash as they don't contain any mercury.

PACKING PEANUTS

- Take your old packing peanuts to any **UPS, Parcel Plus, Mail Boxes Etc.** or other shipping outlet and they'll reuse them.

PLASTIC BAGS

- **Byerly's, Cub Foods, Fresh & Natural Foods, Kowalski's Markets, Lunds, and Twin Cities Natural Food Co-ops** all accept clean, dry plastic bags for recycling. This includes not only plastic grocery and retail bags, but also the bags that wrap your morning paper, dry cleaning bags, water softener salt bags (remove strings and handles first), produce and bread bags (food residue cleaned off), zip-top bags (cut off any plastic parts first), and plastic wrappers from paper towels and toilet paper. No bubble wrap.

PRINTER CARTRIDGES

- **Office Depot and Office Max**, as well as other office-supply stores will usually accept used printer cartridges. However, Epson, Brother, and Canon are often not accepted.

TOWELS, LINENS, RAGS

- Check with your local **animal shelter**. They may take them for bedding for the animals.

- **Wipers Recycling** in Maplewood will turn your worn-out jeans, bed sheets, towels, cotton fabric, and wool clothing into rags, dog toys & fertilizer. Visit www.wipersrecycling.com or call 651-222-7247.

Connect with other buyers

- **Twin Cities Free Market.org** is a unique website that hooks up potential givers and takers of any type of item. (You can't charge for the items you are "selling.") Free service. Visit twincitiesfreemarket.org.
- **Live Deal:** A website selling tool where you can sell just about anything. Postings are free and connects shoppers and buyers who are within driving distance of each other. Visit www.livedeal.com.
- **Craigslist.org** will connect you with other buyers in your area. Just click on the city nearest you and then the "for sale" section. Listings are free. Visit www.craigslist.org.
- **Freecycle.org** matches up potential givers and takers of any type of item. Visit www.freecycle.org.

Consignment Stores

- **Clothes Mentor** carries women's clothes, shoes, handbags, and accessories. Visit www.clothesmentor.com.
- **Turn Style** carries womens and mens clothing plus home furnishings. Visit www.turnstyleconsign.com.
- **Platos' Closet** buys and sells brand name, gently used clothing such as gap, abercrombie & fitch, express, hollister, american eagle and many more. Visit www.platoscloset.com.
- **Nu Look Consignment** carries women's, men's, children's, and maternity clothing and accessories. Visit www.nulookconsignment.com.
- **Everyday People** in Minneapolis and St Paul carries vintage and newer trendy styles for men and women. Visit www.everydaypeopleclothing.com.
- **Wabi Sabi Shop** in Plymouth carries high-end furniture. Call (763) 404-8499 or visit www.wabisabishop.com.

Environmental resources for recycling

- **Earth911:** Just type in your zip code and you'll find locations near you to recycle or donate just about anything you can think of! Visit minnesota.earth911.org/usa or www.earth911.org.
- **Recyclemoreminnesota.org:** Lists resources for each county on how to be more environmentally friendly. Also check out reduce.org and pca.state.mn.us.
- **Minnesota Waste Wise:** Offers waste reduction resources for businesses. Call 651-292-4662 or visit www.mnwastewise.org.
- **Recycling Association of MN:** Visit www.recycleminnesota.org or call 651-641-4560.

- **Recyclaholics:** educational seminars for communities, businesses and schools; recycled and biodegradable/compostable products. 612-521-5667 or www.recyclaholics.com
- **Blue Sky Guide,** a guide to smart shopping in the Twin Cities, local resources, new products, and local businesses (including coupons.) Find local distributors at www.findbluesky.com.
- **The Twin Cities Green Guide** has a wealth of information including a directory of green businesses and organizations. Visit www.thegreenguide.org.
- **Greenguardian** is a great place to learn how to reduce garbage, increase recycling, and order a composting kit. It also has a nice kids section. Visit www.greenguardian.com.
- **Computer Service Center** in Blaine offers free recycling of computers, printer cartridges/toner, keyboards, computer mice, speakers, power cords, radios, headphones, external computer devices, stereos, and software. There is a minimal charge to recycle printers, copiers, scanners, tv's, and monitors. Drop off or arrange pick up. Will remove hard drive information safely for you. Call 763-783-8600.

Getting rid of household hazardous waste

For information, contact the county in which you live (see below), or visit www.pca.state.mn.us/hhw.html.

- Anoka: 763-323-5730
- Carver: 952-361-1800
- Dakota: 952-891-7020
- Hennepin: 612-348-6509
- Ramsey: 651-633-3279
- Washington: 651-430-6000

Getting rid of junk mail

Reduce the hail of unwanted mail by visiting the **Direct Marketing Association** consumer website at www.dmchoice.org and ask to be removed from their mailing lists. While you're on the website, follow the instructions to put yourself on the Do Not Call list, and then opt out of pre-screened credit card offers.

Call **1-888-5-OPT-OUT** to stop mailings of credit card offers.

Value of donated items

- To check out the value of your donated items, go to www.salvationarmyusa.org, click on Ways to Give, and click on Valuation Guide in the drop down menu, or go to <http://turbotax.intuit.com/personal-taxes/itsdeductible/index.jsp> and use this free software to make the calculation.