

Things You Didn't Think You Could Recycle



Sure, you know how to recycle newspapers and soda bottles. But what about that stuff that's cluttering your house? There is an eco-friendly way to get rid of some of that and keep it out of our landfill!

Tennis shoes: Nike's Reuse-a-Shoe program turns old shoes into playground and athletic flooring: www.nikereuseashoe.com



One World Running will send still-wearable shoes to athletes in need in Africa, Latin America, and Haiti: www.oneworldrunning.com

You can drop shoes off at any Nike Factory store. The company also has other drop-off spots, and if there's not one near you, you can mail shoes in. (Get details on the Nike Web site.) Right now they're collecting shoes to make athletic surfaces for New Orleans to help bring youth sports back to the city as it rebuilds.

Toothbrushes and razors: Buy a recycled plastic toothbrush or razor from Recycline, and the company will take it back to be recycled into plastic lumber. Recycline products are made from used Stonyfield Farms' yogurt cups: www.recycline.com

Eyeglasses: Your local Lions Club or eye care chain may collect these. Lenses are reground and given to people in need. The Lions Club and Give the Gift of Sight Foundation collect used eyeglasses for needy people around the world.



Donate your glasses, frames or cases at one of 17 Lions Club recycling centers, or at chains such as Pearle Vision Center, LensCrafters and Sunglass Hut.

Furniture: Redecorating? Donate your old furniture and appliances to Habitat for Humanity. There are stores located in Manatee County and Sarasota County that reuse your donated furniture and appliances to provide affordable furnishings to working families in need. For a FREE pick-up call 941-355-7082. To volunteer, donate or learn more about them visit www.habitat.org.

Ink/toner cartridges: Recycleplace.org allows you to earn money for your returns.

Exercise videos: Swap them with others at www.videofitness.com. Donate to Goodwill or the Salvation Army for others to use!

Clothes: Wearable clothes can go to your local Goodwill outlet or thrift store. Donate wearable women's business clothing to Dress for Success, which gives them to low-income women as they search for jobs: www.dressforsuccess.org. Offer unwearable clothes and towels to local animal boarding and shelter facilities, which often use them as pet bedding. Consider holding a clothing swap at your office, school, faith congregation or community center. Swap clothes with friends and colleagues, and save money on a new fall wardrobe and back-to-school clothes.



Foam packing: Your local pack-and-ship store will likely accept foam peanuts for reuse. Or call the Plastic Loose Fill Producers Council at 1-800-828-2214 to find a drop-off site. For places to drop-off foam blocks for recycling, contact the Alliance of Foam Packaging Recyclers: www.epspackaging.org/info.html

Miscellaneous: Get your unwanted items into the hands of people who can use them. Offer them up on your local www.Freecycle.org or www.Craigslist.org

You can probably recycle more than you think. Visit www.earth911.com to find out!