

Did You Know You Could Recycle This?



By now, the recycling of paper, plastic, glass, and tin/steel/aluminum is becoming more routine in our households. It's time to turn our attention to the many other things that can also be recycled. The list is very long! Did you know, for example, that you can recycle crayons, wine corks, and Tyvek envelopes? Before you send something off in the trash, check with one of the helpful general resources below to see if that item could be recycled. Also, you can try: 1) "Googling" (e.g. "recycling carpeting"), 2) offering the item on Craig's List, Freecycle.org, or 2good2waste.org, 3) or even checking with the item's manufacturer. Let's see how we can prevent as much as possible from ending up in landfills.

A few of the many lesser-known things that you can recycle/donate:

- **Sneakers:** Nike processes and recycles all brands of sneakers and athletic shoes. Bring to Niketown stores in Wrentham or Boston, or see website - www.nikereuseashoe.com
- **Eyeglasses:** www.Lionsclub.org (go to "donate eyeglasses" for drop-off locations/mail-in address. Also: www.neweyesforthe needy.com, and www.onesight.org
- **Worn, tattered, clothing (with stains or rips).** Goodwill welcomes all clothing and fabric items. They work with salvagers and make money from clothing that is not good enough to sell in their stores. Animal shelters will also take stained/ripped sheets, blankets, pillows, etc. for their cages.
- **Compact fluorescent light bulbs:** take to Newton's Rumford Recycling Depot, Home Depot, or IKEA
- **Crayons:** www.crazycrayons.com (also www.earthlingcrayons.com) melts them down and makes new hand-crafted ones
- **Dry cleaner hangers and plastic:** find a dry cleaner who takes them back. The plastic bags can also be recycled at many supermarkets along with soft (#2 and #4) plastic bags. (Green tip: find a dry cleaner that uses "wet cleaning," and "reusable" bags.)
- **Packaging/Styrofoam:** In Newton MA, where I live, you can bring clean white packing Styrofoam to our Recycling Depot (including white trays from produce.) Styrofoam pellets can be taken to a UPS Store or Mail Boxes Etc. For resources in your area see: www.loosefillpackaging.com, www.epspackaging.org, or the General Resources below.

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- **Tyvek envelopes:** www.recycletyvek.com, or for quantities less than 25: Send to Tyvek Recycling Specialist, 5401 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Spot 197, Room 231, Richmond, VA 23234
- **Ink/toner cartridges:** bring to Staples
- **Rubber bands:** Collect in a bag and leave for your mail-carrier or bring to post office
- **Carpeting:** www.carpetrecovery.org or check with manufacturer
- **Corks:** www.yemmhart.com (wine corks only), some Whole Foods stores
- **Aseptic packaging, aerosol cans, hard and soft cover books and telephone books:** taken in regular Newton green recycling cart, and potentially in your city as well. Non-Newton residents, check your local municipality/DPW website.
- **"E-Waste"** - iPods, cell phones and chargers, digital cameras, PDA's, CD's, et al
 - www.recycleforbreastcancer.org
 - Staples, partnering with Collective Good (www.collectivegood.com)
 - www.greendisk.com
 - Project KOPEG (Keep Our Plant Green), www.projectkopez.com
- **Fruit rinds, veggie scraps, coffee grounds, tea bags, wine corks, tissues** - compost!
- **Recreational equipment:** www.playitagainsports.com to resell or trade - or - www.sportsgift.org, www.skichair.com
- **Hazardous Waste:** During my local Hazardous Waste Collection Days I can recycle: aerosol cans that aren't empty, bug spray, art supplies, glue and nail polish, moth balls, flea collar products, solvents, and varnishes, polishes and cleaners, chemistry sets, turpentine, fuels, oil-based paint, pool chemicals, lighter fluid, pesticides, and insecticides, items containing mercury, and photo chemicals. See resources below for what is collected in your area.

General Resources with information about recycling/donating/reusing:

- www.Earth.911.com
- the "Recyclopedia" at <http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/dpw/recycling/residents/materials.asp>.
- www.freecycle.org, www.craigslist.org, www.2good2waste.org
- www.thebostonchannel.com - links volunteers and donors with local nonprofits. Go to web-site, scroll down to *Spotlights* (on the bottom), then *Commonwealth 5*, then *How to Donate*.