

Please Don't Throw That Out!

Before you leave your item at the curb for trash, consider whether it still has value to someone else. There are lots of ways to get your unwanted items into the hands of people who can really use them. Donating items for reuse keeps them out of landfills and reduces the need to manufacture new items, so it helps twice. Leaving your item at the curb next to your garbage cans may seem like a great way to give someone a chance to pick it up, but it may get ruined in the rain, or the right person may not see it that day.

Please give your unwanted items a chance at a second life. There are a lot of people out there who can use them. In particular, many items are in great demand by school teachers, who often buy classroom necessities with their own money, and welcome hand-me-downs.

If you can't find a new home for your item on the list below, send an email to oradellreuse@yahoo.com. We'll try to help you figure out alternatives to the garbage pickup.

RECYCLING CENTER SWAP SHOP

The Recycling Center now has a swap shop for small items that need a new home. It's open during Saturday Recycling Center hours. Come and donate your unwanted items (e.g., small kitchen items, household decorative items) or take a look and find a new treasure of your own.

FARMER'S MARKET DONATION CENTER

The Oradell Environmental Committee will collect the following items each week at the Farmer's Market:

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Your kids may have begun to outgrow some of their baby books. As you make room on their bookshelves for new books, consider helping some kids who don't have many (or any) books of their own. Early literacy is important, and not all kids have easy access. "Read to Know" is a literacy organization based in Glen Rock that arranges story hours for kids at day care centers, food pantries and underserved schools. They also do periodic book giveaways, so that kids can enjoy having their very own books. Their biggest need is for board books for infants and toddlers. <http://www.readtoknow.org/how-to-get-involved/special-call-for-books/>

LEARNING TOYS AND GAMES

Has your child mastered a skill and outgrown a learning toy (e.g., puzzle, shape sorter, lacing cards, stacking toy, etc.)? If you still have all the pieces, consider bringing it in so that it can be donated. Puzzles, games and other toys are welcome and present learning opportunities for kids in underserved communities. Leftover art supplies are also welcome. All items will be donated to schools.

CARDBOARD EGG CARTONS

The organic farmers of Freebird Farm are happy to reuse cardboard egg cartons that are clean and in good condition. Reusing the egg cartons instead of recycling them is more efficient and reduces the need to produce more cartons. Donating your egg cartons also helps to cut down on expenses for a small independent farmer, who is devoted to growing practices that are good for the environment. Freebird Farm is the farmer for the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) at the Kaplen JCC on the Palisades. Farm shares of their organic vegetables, as well as egg and fruit shares are available from June through November through the JCC. Sign-ups are open in early spring each year. For more information, visit <https://freebirdfarm.org/csa/>

CRAYONS

What can you do with all those broken crayon stubs in your house? What about those endless little boxes you get at restaurants? How many red, yellow, green and blue sets can one house hold? Give your old, broken, unwanted crayons to the Crayon Initiative. They will melt them down and use them to create new crayons to distribute to kids in hospitals. (Crayons in good condition will be donated to schools instead of sent for recycling).

http://thecrayoninitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/170604_TCI_School_Program_Guide.pdf

TRASHNOTHING.COM is an online swap meet. Create an account and you can post items you'd like to give away. Provide a description and list your town. It's all anonymous until you choose to provide information for a pickup. You can also post for items you are seeking. It's a great way for all involved to save money and limit waste.

CRAIGSLIST.COM isn't just for selling things. It also has a section for people to give items away. Select "Items for Sale" and then select "Free." Just post and wait for responses. Then, arrange for a pickup.

Feeling shy about providing your home address for pickup of items you are giving away on Trashnothing or Craig's List? There's a designated pickup spot at the back of Borough Hall, so you can arrange for handoffs there, right near the police department.

FURNITURE AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Habitat for Humanity's ReStore (www.Bergenrestore.org) thrift shop accepts donations of gently used furniture and household goods for resale. There is a location in Westwood. All proceeds go to support Habitat's mission to provide affordable housing. Refer to their website for donation guidelines. Pickups are available for larger items, but advance planning is required.

Goodwill's Thrift Store (www.goodwillnynj.org) also accepts a wide variety of clothing, furniture and household goods. Drop-offs are accepted at their store on Route 17 South. Refer to their website for donation guidelines.

TEXTILE RECYCLING What should you do with clothing that isn't quite fit for the hand-me-down bin? Holes in the knees? Mismatched socks? Perhaps clothing that has fallen out of fashion? Many people would be surprised to find out that clothing and textile waste takes up around 5 % of our municipal waste stream, or 22 Billion lbs. annually. Of these items, 95% can be re-used in one way or another, whether it is re-used as second hand clothing, rags or for low-grade fiber products. Wearable Collections accepts textile donations. Drop-offs are available at Greenmarket locations throughout NYC. <http://wearablecollections.com/fag/>

BOOKS/CDS/DVDS The Housing Works Bookstore (<https://www.housingworks.org/about-us>) will accept donations of the books or other media piling up in your house If you have books of all vintages, CDs, LPs or DVDs that need new homes, the Housing Works Bookstore in lower Manhattan will gladly take them off your hands and use the proceeds to support people living with HIV/AIDs. There are some restrictions on what they'll accept, but the donation guidelines are pretty expansive. No magazines, dated materials, encyclopedias, travel guides or VHS or cassette tapes. Read more on this page: <https://www.housingworks.org/donate/store-drop-offs>. They have other thrift shops that will accept clothing and household goods.

While the Oradell Public Library isn't currently accepting donations, the Englewood and Westwood Libraries, among others, are still accepting books. Call those libraries, or other BCCLS libraries, to confirm their current policies.

For more environmental inspirations, read <https://www.rd.com/health/wellness/kids-save-planet-in-minutes/>