

HOW TO RECYCLE ALMOST ANYTHING!

Aerosol cans: empty the canister, pull off the plastic cap & recycle with cans.

Batteries: take to a recycling center. Most retailers selling car batteries will collect & recycle them.

Carpeting (nylon fiber): carpetrecovery.org lists carpet-reclamation facilities or check with the manufacturer.

Cars, Jet Skis, boats, trailers, RVs, & motorcycles: Even if unusable, totaled, rusted - they have metal & other recyclable components. Call junkyards or go to junkmycar.com, to pick up & remove items for free. Or donate cars to a good cause such as the American Cancer Society.

Cell phones: The Wireless Foundation refurbishes for domestic-violence survivors (calltoprotect.org.) For more cell-phone charities - recyclewirelessphones.com.

Christmas lights: Ship old lights to holidayleds.com. You will receive a coupon for 10% off its LED lights, which use 80% less energy, are safer & last 10 years or more!

Compact fluorescent lightbulbs: CFLs contain mercury and can't be thrown in the trash. Check your local recycling center to see if they accept them. . Ikea & Home Depot have recycling programs.

Computers: return to manufacturer for recycling (mygreenelectronics.com lists vendors) or donate to charity (sharetechnology.org or cristina.org). [Nextsteprecycling.org](http://nextsteprecycling.org) repairs & donates broken computers.

Deodorant: if the dial on the bottom is different from the plastic of the rest of container, you might not be able to recycle the whole thing. Tom's of Maine makes a deodorant stick solely of plastic No. 5.

DVDs, CDs, & jewel cases: swap with others (zunafish.com) or send to greendisk.com.

Eyeglasses: Donate to neweyesforthe needy.com (sunglasses too!). Or drop off at LensCrafters, Target Optical, or other participating stores & doctors' offices, which will send them to givethegiftofsight.org.

Fire extinguishers: Dry-chemical extinguishers - relieve remaining pressure, remove the head from the container & put it with metal items. Or, call a fire equipment company & request they dispose of your extinguisher. Carbon dioxide extinguishers are refillable after each use.

Food: Put in a composter!

Formal wear: Give it to a girl who can't afford one (operationfairydust.org or catherinescloset.org).

Gadgets (PDAs, MP3s): Recycleforbreastcancer.org. They send you a prepaid shipping label, recycle the gadgets, & donate proceeds to breast cancer charities.

Glue strips & inserts in magazines: Lotion samples & nonpaper promotional items affixed to glue strips in magazines should be removed (they jam up recycling equipment). Scented perfume strips are fine.

Hearing aids: The Starkey Hearing Foundation (sotheworldmayhear.org) recycles used hearing aids, any make or model, no matter how old. Lions Clubs accepts hearing aids and eyeglasses (donateglasses.net)

Holiday cards: paper recycling bin or send to St. Jude's Ranch for Children (stjudesranch.org). Kids cut off the front covers, glue onto new cards, & sell - the result - earning money & confidence.

iPods: take old iPods to an Apple store & get 10% off a new one. The discount is valid only that day, so be prepared to buy your new iPod.

Leather accessories: not recyclable. Donate shoes to solesforsouls.org, to be distributed to needy communities.

Mattresses & box springs: are recyclable but not all cities accept them Check earth911.org.

Notebooks (spiral): are recyclable. The machinery will pull out the wire. If the cover is plastic, rip it off.

Office envelopes

- **Envelopes with plastic windows:** Recycle with paper.
- **FedEx:** recyclable. No need to pull off the plastic sleeve. FedEx Paks made of Tyvek are recyclable.
- **Goldenrod:** Those mustard-colored envelopes are not recyclable.
- **Jiffy Paks:** paper-padded ones filled with that material resembling dryer lint—are recyclable with paper.
- **Padded envelopes with Bubble Wrap:** not recyclable.
- **Post-its:** recyclable.

Packing materials: Styrofoam peanuts cannot be recycled in most areas, but many packaging stores (like UPS & Mail Boxes Etc.) accept them. To find a peanut reuser near you, go to loosefillpackaging.com.

Phone books: check yellowpages.com/recycle, or call AT&T's phone book recycling line 800-953-4400.

Pizza boxes: If cheese/grease are on the box, rip out the affected areas & recycle the rest as corrugated cardboard.

Prescription drugs: The Starfish Project (thestarfish-project.org) collects some unused medications (TB medicines, antifungals, antivirals) & gives them to clinics in Nigeria. The organization will send you a prepaid FedEx label, too.

Printer-ink cartridges: It takes 450 years for them to decompose! Check out Recycleplace.com or take them to Staples & get \$3 off your next cartridge purchase, or mail HP-brand cartridges back to HP.

Recreational equipment: Trade sports gear in at Play It Again Sports (playitagainsports.com), or donate it to sportsgift.org, which donates to needy kids around the world. For skis - skichair.com,

Rugs: check your recycling center. If they don't take rugs, donate to a thrift store such as the Salvation Army.

Shower curtains & liners: not recyclable because they're made of PVC.

Six-pack rings: See if your local school participates in the Ring Leader Recycling Program (ringleader.com).

Smoke detectors: Check your local recycling center. If they don't take them, try the manufacturer. First Alert takes back detectors (you pay for shipping); call 800-323-9005.

Stereos & VCRs: Visit earth911.org for a list of recyclers, retail stores, & manufacturers that accept electronics. Greencitizen.com recycles them at a cost ranging from 0 to 50 cents a pound. Freegeek.org offers a similar service.

Tinfoil: It's aluminum, not tin. So rinse it off, wash it up, & toss it in with the beer & soda cans.

Tires: leave with the dealer when you buy new ones (just check that they'll be recycled).

Tissue boxes with plastic dispensers: recycle with cardboard.

Toothpaste tubes: recycle with the aluminum cans, not plastic ones.

TVs: Best Buy will remove & recycle when delivering a new one. Or bring to Office Depot for recycling. If it's a Sony, take to a drop-off center listed at sony.com/recycle.

Umbrellas: If it's metal, put the metal skeleton with metal (remove fabric & handle first). Plastic are not accepted.

Videotapes, cassettes, & floppy disks: not recyclable. Send to ACT (actrecycling.org), which employs disabled people to clean, erase, & resell them. You can also send to greendisk.com; recycling 20 pounds or less costs \$6.95, plus shipping.

Wheelchairs: lifenets.org/wheelchair unites wheelchairs with those who need them.

Wine corks: are biodegradable so put them in a compost bin. Plastic corks can't be recycled.

Wipes & sponges: not recyclable. Put Sea & natural sponges made from vegetable cellulose in a compost heap.

Writing implements: pens, pencils, & markers are not recyclable. Donate usable ones to schools. Buy refillable pencils & biodegradable pens made of corn (grassrootsstore.com).

Zippered plastic bags: Centers that recycle plastic bags also accept them. Clean, dry, & cut off the zip part.