WHAT TO DO WITH HARD-TO-RECYCLE ITEMS IN NYC

Please send queries or updates to Jeff Twine at info@uwsr.org.

*If you don’t know if an item is accepted by the Department of Sanitation (DSNY), contact them (see below).
Call organizations before bringing or sending materials.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- FreeCycle.org; [www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org); freecyclenewyorkcity-moderator@yahoogroups.com (Online materials exchange).
- Morningside Heights-West Harlem Sanitation Coalition, (212) 666-6157; Joan Levine, jslevine100@msn.com. (Recycling events and information)
- NYC Department of Sanitation, call 311; [http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/zerowaste/residents.shtml](http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/zerowaste/residents.shtml). (For more on recycling collection schedules, NYC recycling information and laws, and other ways to reduce the waste stream)
- NYC Stuff Exchange, [www.nyc.gov/stuffexchange](http://www.nyc.gov/stuffexchange). (To find places to buy, sell or donate used goods in your neighborhood)
- ReUse NYC Donations Exchange, (212) 650-5832; [http://exchange.reusenyc.info/exchange/donations@reusenyc.info](http://exchange.reusenyc.info/exchange/donations@reusenyc.info). (Materials exchange service for businesses and non-profits).
- Upper Green Side; [www.uppergreenside.org](http://www.uppergreenside.org), [uppergreenside@gmail.com](mailto:uppergreenside@gmail.com). (Upper East Side recycling)
- Upper West Side Recycling; [jtwine@synerjy.com](mailto:jtwine@synerjy.com). (Publisher of the UWSR Eco Letter)
- WeHateToWaste.com, (212) 879-4160; [http://www.wehatetowaste.com/](http://www.wehatetowaste.com/).

BATTERIES & LIGHTING (see also Household Hazardous Waste)

**Batteries:** All rechargeable batteries must be recycled; you can bring them back to most stores that sell them. Many jewelers accept button cells. Cover contacts of rechargeable batteries with tape before recycling. Lead-acid car batteries must be accepted by the retailers that sell them.

**Fluorescent Bulbs:** Businesses must recycle fluorescent bulbs. Compact fluorescent light bulbs, which should be bagged, are called CFLs below.

- Beacon Hardware, 371 Amsterdam Avenue (78-79th Sts.), (212) 787-1090. (Accepts CFLs for recycling)
- Best Buy Stores; [www.bestbuy.com](http://www.bestbuy.com). Uptown locations: 1280 Lexington Avenue (86th St.), (917) 492-9959; 1880 Broadway (62nd St.), (212) 246-9734; 750 Seventh Avenue, (49th St.), (212) 265-3984. (Accepts flashlight-type rechargeable batteries)
- Big Reuse, [http://www.bigreuse.org](http://www.bigreuse.org). Non-profit retail outlet for salvaged or surplus building materials, lighting and appliances. Drop-off centers are located in Brooklyn (69 Ninth Street, Gowanus; 718-725-8925; [brooklyn@bigreuse.org](mailto:brooklyn@bigreuse.org)) and Queens (3-17 26th Avenue, Astoria; 718-777-0132;
Computers, Cell Phones and Other Electronic Equipment
As of April 1, 2015 it became illegal to put E-Waste into your trash. Since April 2011, manufacturers have been required to accept computer equipment at no charge in New York State. For further information, see www.nyc.gov/nycwasteless/electronics.

A. Charitable Organizations and Recyclers

- **Amazon.com**, [www.amazon.com/trade-in](http://www.amazon.com/trade-in). (You can get a store credit when you trade in electronic equipment.)
- **Computers for Youth**, 520 Eighth Avenue; (917) 677-5506; [www.cf.org](http://www.cf.org); [CFY-NY@cfy.org](mailto:CFY-NY@cfy.org). (Accepts newer PC systems from corporations and refurbishes them for reuse in schools and other non-profits; minimum of 50 pieces; will pick up)
- **E-Commerce/Goodwill**, (347) 218-2206. [www.goodwill.org](http://www.goodwill.org); Brooklyn NY. (Free pick-up of large quantities—100 pieces or more—of computers and peripherals, TVs, cell and wall phones, small appliances and other small electronic equipment.)
- **The Fourth Bin**, 708 Third Avenue, 646-747-5985, (855) ECYCLE1; [www.4thbin.com](http://www.4thbin.com); [ecyclenow@4thbin.com](mailto:ecyclenow@4thbin.com). (Accepts computers and peripherals, TVs, other small electronic equipment and phones; will pick up from businesses or residences for a fee)
- **Gazelle.com**, [www.gazelle.com](http://www.gazelle.com). (Buys and sells electronic equipment.)
- **Goodwill**, 157 West 72nd Street, (212) 799-2723; 217 West 79th Street, (212) 874-5050; [www.goodwillnynj.org](http://www.goodwillnynj.org). (Accepts small amounts of a variety of computers and peripherals, TVs [flat screen only], cell and wall phones and other small electronic equipment and some small appliances; items must be in working condition; pick-ups for large quantities from organizations; call first.)
- **Greenchip Electronic Waste Solutions**, 540 Kingsland Avenue, Brooklyn NY 11222, (718) 349-3094; [www.greenchiprecycling.com](http://www.greenchiprecycling.com). (Picks up E-Waste for a per-pound fee)
- **Grow NYC**, (212) 788-7476; [www.grownyc.org](http://www.grownyc.org). (Accepts cell phones at some of its Upper Manhattan Greenmarkets; call for locations and hours)
- **iFixit** provides advice via the internet for those who like to repair things themselves, as well as components and repair manuals for almost anything, including computers and other electronic devices; (866) 613-4948; [https://www.ifixit.com/info](https://www.ifixit.com/info)
- **Materials for the Arts**, 33-00 Northern Blvd., Long Island City, NY 11101, (718) 729-3001; info@mfta.nyc.gov; [www.mfta.org](http://www.mfta.org). (Accepts newer computer systems in working condition [up to 5 years old only] and other electronic equipment; will pick up)
- **Non-Profit Computing**, (212) 759-2368; german63@hotmail.com. (Clearing house for a variety of computers, faxes, telephone systems and other electronic equipment)
- **NYC Department of Sanitation (e-cycle NYC)**, call 311 or (212) 437-4675; [http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/zerowaste/residents.shtml](http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/zerowaste/residents.shtml). (Free pickup of E-Waste from residential buildings with ten or more units)
- **nycRecycleMe.com**, (347) 690-5670; [http://www.nycrecycleme.com/](http://www.nycrecycleme.com/). (Accepts computers, flat screen monitors or TVs, CD/DVD media and portable electronics such as phones or tablets (no CRT monitors or CRT TV’s please. Call or e-mail to schedule a pickup or get more information, nycrecycle@gmail.com)
- **Per Scholas**, 1375 Bronx River Avenue, Bronx NY 10460, (718) 991-8400, (800)-877-4068; [www.perscholas.org](http://www.perscholas.org). (Picks up computer systems, including monitors, components and cells phones for a fee, depending on quantity and quality; free IT training courses)
- **Salvation Army**, 268 West 96th Street, NYC, (212) 663-2258, (212) 337-7200; [www.salvationarmy-newyork.org](http://www.salvationarmy-newyork.org). (Accepts small amounts of a variety of computers and peripherals, TVs, cell and wall phones and other small electronic equipment and some small appliances; call first. Free pick-up service is available at [https://satruck.org/](https://satruck.org/) or call (212) 757-2311 or (800) 728-7825; items should be in working condition; two-bag minimum.)
- **United War Veterans Council**, (212) 838-8982, (203) 434-4170; [info@uwvcrcycling.org](mailto:info@uwvcrcycling.org); [http://www.uwvcrcycling.org/](http://www.uwvcrcycling.org/). (Will pick up computers and other electronic goods, including small appliances; can be mixed with other household items; no minimum quantity, though they prefer at least one bag or box.)

**B. MANUFACTURER AND RETAIL TAKE-BACK PROGRAMS**

- **Best Buy Stores**, [www.bestbuy.com](http://www.bestbuy.com). Uptown locations: 1280 Lexington Avenue (86th St.), (917) 492-9959; 1880 Broadway (62nd St.), (212) 246-9734; 750 Seventh Avenue (49th St.), (212) 265-3984. (Accepts a wide variety of electronic equipment, computers and peripherals, video and audio
equipment, ink and toner cartridges, cameras, as well as some appliances such as fans, vacuum cleaners and hairdryers; call first.)

- **Staples**, [www.staples.com](http://www.staples.com). (Accepts computer equipment, ink-jet and toner cartridges; no TVs)
- **Verizon**, [www.verizonwireless.com/hopeline](http://www.verizonwireless.com/hopeline). (Accepts used cell phones and accessories at their stores)

### C. Electronics Recycling Events/Miscellaneous

- **Assemblyman Daniel O’Donnell**, 245 West 104th Street; (212) 866-3970. (Office accepts used cell phones for re-use or recycling on an on-going basis.)
- **Lower East Side Ecology**, (212) 477-4022; [www.lesecologycenter.org](http://www.lesecologycenter.org). (Hosts E-Waste recycling events during the year throughout Manhattan; also operates a permanent E-Waste collection center at 469 President Street in Brooklyn, Tuesdays through Saturdays; call (718) 858-8777 in advance for hours, materials accepted and other relevant information)
- **Donations and Resale**: To find a place to donate or sell your working electronics, visit [http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/zerowaste/residents.shtml](http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/zerowaste/residents.shtml).
- **Take-Back or Drop-Off**: Free mail-back options – the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation maintains a website [http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/82084.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/82084.html) that lists manufacturers that take back unwanted electronics.

### Household Hazardous Waste

- **Bethlehem Apparatus Co., Inc.**, 890 Front Street, PO Box Y, Hellertown, PA 18055; (610) 838-7034 [phone]; (610) 838-6333 [fax]; info@bethlehemapparatus.com. (Recycles mercury thermometers, fluorescent lamps [large and CFL’s], and batteries [small alkaline and button cells])
- **NYC Department of Sanitation**, call 311 for information, instructions and locations of sites and events; [http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/zerowaste/residents.shtml](http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/zerowaste/residents.shtml). (Holds SAFE Disposal Events and also has Special Waste Sites: SAFE Disposal Events accept all potentially harmful products including paint, oil, pharmaceuticals, pesticides, light bulbs, cleaners and other materials. The Special Waste Site in Manhattan at 74 Pike Slip [between Cherry and South Sts. under the Manhattan Bridge] accepts latex paint, motor oil and filters, fluorescent bulbs, batteries, thermostats and mercury-containing devices on a weekly basis. The site is open from 10am-5pm every Saturday and the last Friday of the month, except legal holidays. There is also another drop-off site in the South Bronx.)

### Paper Shredding

- **Time Shred Services**, (800) 989-8463, (718) 875-1299; [www.timeshred.com](http://www.timeshred.com).
- **www.nyc.gov/ShredFest**. (Yearly paper shredding events in each borough)
- For information on paper shredding events in Upper Manhattan, see [https://thisweekatthemarket.wordpress.com/](https://thisweekatthemarket.wordpress.com/)

### Plastic

All rigid (non-film) plastic, except Styrofoam, is now collected by the NYC Department of Sanitation; this includes plastic straws, CDs and DVDs. **Info**: Call 311 or see [http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/zerowaste/residents.shtml](http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/zerowaste/residents.shtml). Plastic bags are required to be accepted for recycling in stores of more than 10,000 sq. ft. and with more than five NYC locations.

### CDs, DVDs and Cassette Tapes (CDs can also be put into your plastics recycling)

- **Best Buy Stores**: [www.bestbuy.com](http://www.bestbuy.com). Uptown locations: 1280 Lexington Avenue (86th St.), (917) 492-8870; 1880 Broadway (62nd St.), (212) 246-9734; 750 Seventh Avenue (49th St.), (212) 265-3984. (Accept CDs, DVDs and cassette tapes)
- **GreenDisk**: (800) 305-DISK, (425) 392-8700; [http://www.greendisk.com/](http://www.greendisk.com/). (You can mail smaller quantities of CDs, cassettes, DVDs to them for a set fee; arrangements can be made for them to pick up larger quantities.)

- **Holy Name Roman Catholic Church Thrift Store**, 96th Street between Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue, Tuesday-Sunday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. (closed Mondays)

- **Lower East Side Ecology**, (212) 477-4022; [www.leseologycenter.org](http://www.leseologycenter.org). (Accepts CDs, DVDs and cassette tapes for a per-pound fee at its collection events and warehouse.)

- **Salvation Army**, 96th Street between Broadway and West End Avenue, Monday-Tuesday/Thursday-Friday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Wednesday and Saturday, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. (closed Sundays)

- **Westsider Books**, 233 West 72 Street, [http://westsiderbooks.com](http://westsiderbooks.com), (212) 874-1588. Takes CDs (buy or sell)

**Miscellaneous**

- **Ashley Resins**, 5114 Fort Hamilton Plky, Brooklyn, NY 11219, (718) 851-8111; [www.ashleypolymers.com](http://www.ashleypolymers.com); [mail@ashleypolymers.com](mailto:mail@ashleypolymers.com). (Accepts 5-gallon polycarbonate bottles from water coolers as well as items made of nylon and other plastic resins; will pick up in large quantities)

- **Mail Boxes, Etc. and UPS Stores** (various locations), (800) 789-4623. (Accepts expanded polystyrene [Styrofoam] peanuts and other packaging material)

- **Plastic Film**, [www.plasticfilm.org](http://www.plasticfilm.org) for drop-off locations for plastic film (including bags); one location on the Upper West Side is Whole Foods, 808 Columbus Avenue, 212-222-6160

- **Plastic Loosefill Council**, (510) 654-0756; [www.loosefillpackaging.com](http://www.loosefillpackaging.com). (Lists local stores accepting polystyrene peanuts)

**Textiles: Fabric, Sheets, Clothing, etc.** - No carpet recycling in NYC.

Wearable clothing may also be donated to thrift shops—see below.

**A. Recyclers**

- **Emerson Recycling**, 65 Emerson Place, Brooklyn, NY 11205, (718) 622-1799. (Accepts mixed textile cuttings from companies and ships them overseas for reprocessing and reuse; picks up for free or for a per-pound fee, depending on quality and quantity)

- **Grow NYC**, (212) 788-7964, (212) 788-7964, (212) 788-7476; [www.grownyc.org/clothing](http://www.grownyc.org/clothing). (Textiles are accepted at the 79th Street Greenmarket [79th & Columbus Avenue], 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Sundays; at the 97th Street Greenmarket [97th & Columbus Avenue], 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Fridays; and at Columbia University Greenmarket [Broadway betw. 114th-115th Sts.], 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Thursdays and Sundays; also accepted in Inwood and other Manhattan locations; check website for hours)

- **re-fashioNYC**, call 311; [www.nyc.gov/refashion](http://www.nyc.gov/refashion). (A partnership between the NYC Sanitation Dept. and Housing Works; free pick-up of textiles from residential buildings with 10 or more units)

- **United War Veterans Council**, (212) 838-8982, (203) 434-4170; [info@uwvcrecycling.org](mailto:info@uwvcrecycling.org); [http://www.uwvcrecycling.org/](http://www.uwvcrecycling.org/). (Will pick up clothing and other textiles; can be mixed with other household items; no minimum quantity, though they prefer at least one bag or box.)

- **Wearable Collections**, (646) 515-4387; [www.wearablecollections.com](http://www.wearablecollections.com). (Free pick-up of all textiles, except carpeting, from residential buildings, greenmarkets and community organizations; they will site a container in larger buildings or make a weekly pick-up of a minimum of 4-5 large bags of materials; pick-up days are scheduled according to zip code; contact them for more details)

**B. Thrift Shops** (Upper West Side only – see [www.nyc.gov/stuffexchange](http://www.nyc.gov/stuffexchange) for other NYC locations)

- **Cathedral of St. John the Divine Clothing Closet**, 1047 Amsterdam Avenue (112th Street), (212) 316-7540; [http://www.stjohndivine.org/social/nutrition-health-clothing-center/clothing-closet](http://www.stjohndivine.org/social/nutrition-health-clothing-center/clothing-closet); [ccc@stjohndivine.org](mailto:ccc@stjohndivine.org). (Accepts gently used casual and business attire.)

- **Center at the Red Oak**, 135 West 106th Street, (212) 749-7015.
- **Goodwill**, 157 West 72nd Street, (212) 799-2723; 217 West 79th Street, (212) 874-5050; [www.goodwillnynj.org](http://www.goodwillnynj.org). (Accepts clothing and other textiles, shoes, etc.; will site containers in large residential buildings; pick-ups for large quantities from organizations; call first.)

- **Housing Works**, 306 Columbus Avenue between 74th & 75th Streets, (212) 579-7566; and 2569 Broadway between 96th & 97th Streets, (212) 222-3550; [www.housingworks.org](http://www.housingworks.org).

- **Salvation Army**, 268 West 96th Street, (212) 663-2258, (212) 337-7200; [www.salvationarmynewyork.org](http://www.salvationarmynewyork.org). (Free pick-up of clothing, other textiles, shoes, etc. is available at [https://satruck.org/](https://satruck.org/) or call (212) 757-2311 or (800) 728-7825; items should be wearable or useable; two-bag minimum.)

- **St. Francis Thrift Store**, 217 West 96th Street, (212) 932-8040; [http://www.holynamenyc.org/](http://www.holynamenyc.org/). (Accepts clothing, kitchenware and small appliances)

### Carpentry

- **Carpet Cycle**, 16 Herbert Street, Newark, NJ 07105, (973-732-48580; [www.carpetcycle.com](http://www.carpetcycle.com). (Removes and recycles old carpeting and padding from commercial buildings for a fee)

### Miscellaneous

- **Big Reuse**, [http://www.bigreuse.org](http://www.bigreuse.org). Non-profit retail outlet for salvaged or surplus building materials, lighting and appliances. Drop-off centers are located in Brooklyn (69 Ninth Street, Gowanus; 718-725-8925; [brooklyn@bigreuse.org](mailto:brooklyn@bigreuse.org)) and Queens (3-17 26th Avenue, Astoria; 718-777-0132; [queens@bigreuse.org](mailto:queens@bigreuse.org)) accept materials. Pickup and deconstruction services are available for large quantities.


- **Build It Green!NYC**, 3-17 26th Avenue, Astoria, Queens, (718) 777-0132; [www.bignyc.org](http://www.bignyc.org). (Accepts building materials, furniture, fixtures and appliances)

- **Goodwill**, 157 West 72nd Street, (212) 799-2723; 217 West 79th Street, (212) 874-5050; [www.goodwillnynj.org](http://www.goodwillnynj.org). (Accepts a variety of household items; no furniture.)

- **Housing Works**, 306 Columbus Avenue between 74th & 75th Streets, (212) 579-7566; and 2569 Broadway between 96th & 97th Streets, (212) 222-3550; [www.housingworks.org](http://www.housingworks.org). (Accepts furniture and miscellaneous goods; no electronics or appliances; home pick-up available for furniture; call first)

- **iFixit** provides advice via the internet for those who like to repair things themselves, as well as components and repair manuals for almost anything, including computers and other electronic devices; (866) 613-4948; [https://www.ifixit.com/info](https://www.ifixit.com/info)

- **Pedals for Progress**, High Bridge, NJ, (908) 638-4811; [www.p4p.org](http://www.p4p.org); [pdls4@comcast.net](mailto:pdls4@comcast.net). (Accepts used bicycles and sewing machines)

- **Pop-up-Repair**, [www.popuprepair.com](http://www.popuprepair.com)/; [fixit@popuprepair.com](mailto:fixit@popuprepair.com). (Can fix, alter, sharpen, shine, and polish almost anything.)


- **Re Lit NY**, [www.relitny.org](http://www.relitny.org). (Collects books and distributes them to the public; there is a drop-off box for Re Lit at Whole Foods at 97th & Columbus)

- **Salvation Army**, 268 West 96th Street, NYC, (212) 663-2258, (212) 337-7200; [www.salvationarmynewyork.org](http://www.salvationarmynewyork.org). (Free pick-up of bicycles, books, furniture and other household goods is available at [https://satruck.org/](https://satruck.org/) or call (212) 757-2311 or (800) 728-7825; items should be wearable or useable; two-bag minimum.)

- **St. Francis Thrift Store**, 217 West 96th Street, (212) 932-8040; [http://www.holynamenyc.org/](http://www.holynamenyc.org/). (Accepts clothing, kitchenware and small appliances)
United War Veterans Council, (212) 838-8982, (203) 434-4170; info@uwvcrecycling.org; http://www.uwvcrecycling.org/. (Will pick up a variety of household items; no minimum quantity, though they prefer at least one bag or box.)

Whole Foods, 97th & Columbus Avenue. (Accepts wine bottle corks [real cork, not plastic])

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