

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



*This information is provided by Upper West Side Recycling.  
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**\*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

- NYC Department of Sanitation, call 311; [www.nyc.gov/recycles](http://www.nyc.gov/recycles). (For more on recycling collection schedules, NYC recycling information and laws, and other ways to reduce the waste stream)
- Grow NYC, (212) 788-7964; [www.grownyc.org](http://www.grownyc.org). ("Stop N' Swap" goods exchanges, composting, electronics, textiles)
- Lower East Side Ecology, (212) 477-4022; [www.lesecologycenter.org](http://www.lesecologycenter.org). (E-Waste collection, composting)
- Morningside Heights-West Harlem Sanitation Coalition, (212) 666-6157; Joan Levine, [jslevine100@msn.com](mailto:jslevine100@msn.com). (Recycling events and information)
- 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)
- 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*)
- [www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org); [freecyclenewyorkcity-moderator@yahoogroups.com](mailto:freecyclenewyorkcity-moderator@yahoogroups.com) (Online materials exchange).
- [www.wastematch.org](http://www.wastematch.org); (212) 650-5832. (Materials exchange service for businesses and non-profits).

## 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 (78-79<sup>th</sup> Sts.), (212) 787-1090. (Accepts CFLs for recycling)
- Best Buy Stores; [www.bestbuy.com](http://www.bestbuy.com). Uptown locations: 1280 Lexington Avenue (86<sup>th</sup> St.), (917) 492-9959; 1880 Broadway (62<sup>nd</sup> St.), (212) 246-9734; 750 Seventh Avenue, (49<sup>th</sup> St.), (212) 265-3984. (Accepts flashlight-type batteries)
- Eastern Environmental Technologies, 47 Purdy Avenue, Port Chester, NY 10573, (914) 934-2100; (800) 808-7227; [www.easternenvironmental.com](http://www.easternenvironmental.com). (Accepts and recycles bagged fluorescent lights, transformers and ballasts, as well as batteries on a fee basis; will pick up large quantities)
- Grow NYC, (212) 788-7476; [www.grownyc.org](http://www.grownyc.org). (Accepts rechargeable batteries at some of its Upper Manhattan Greenmarket; call for locations and hours)
- Home Depot, 980 Third Avenue (59<sup>th</sup> St.), (212) 888-1512; 40 West 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, (212) 929-9571; [www.homedepot.com](http://www.homedepot.com). (Accepts bagged, unbroken CFLs and all flashlight-type batteries)
- NYC Department of Sanitation, call 311; [www.nyc.gov/wasteless/specialwaste](http://www.nyc.gov/wasteless/specialwaste). (Accepts and recycles bagged fluorescent lights, as well as all batteries; call for locations and hours)
- Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation, (877) 723-2925; [www.call2recycle.org/newyork](http://www.call2recycle.org/newyork). (Lists stores that take rechargeable batteries in or near your zip code)

## COMPOST

- *Build It Green! NYC*, 3-17 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Astoria, Queens, (718)777-0132 x104; [www.bignyc.org](http://www.bignyc.org); [compost@bignyc.org](mailto:compost@bignyc.org). (Accepts food scraps at several Queens drop-off sites)
- *GrowNYC*, (212) 788-7964; [www.grownyc.org/compost](http://www.grownyc.org/compost). (Food scrap compost program at various locations; see website for times. On Upper West Side: 79<sup>th</sup> Street Greenmarket [79<sup>th</sup> & Columbus Avenue], 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Sundays; 97<sup>th</sup> Street Greenmarket [97<sup>th</sup> & Columbus Avenue], 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Fridays; Columbia University Greenmarket [Broadway between 114<sup>th</sup>-115<sup>th</sup> Sts.], 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Sundays and 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Thursdays)
- *Lower East Side Ecology*, (212) 477-4022; [www.lesecologycenter.org](http://www.lesecologycenter.org). (Free food waste drop-off sites in downtown Manhattan, workshops, composting containers)

## COMPUTERS, CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

After April 1, 2015 it will be 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](http://www.nyc.gov/nycwasteless/electronics).

### A. CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS AND RECYCLERS

- *Computers for Youth*, 520 Eighth Avenue; (917) 677-5506; [www.cfy.org](http://www.cfy.org); [CFY-NYC@cfy.org](mailto:CFY-NYC@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)
- *Goodwill Industries*; [www.goodwill.org](http://www.goodwill.org); on the Upper West Side at 217 West 79<sup>th</sup> Street, (212) 874-5050. (Accepts small amounts of computers and peripherals, TVs, cell and wall phones and other small electronic equipment. From individuals only.)
- *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)
- *Materials for the Arts*, 33-00 Northern Blvd., Long Island City, NY 11101, (718) 729-3001; [info@mfta.nyc.gov](mailto: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)
- *NYC Department of Sanitation*, call 311 or (212) 437-4675; [www.nyc.gov/recycles](http://www.nyc.gov/recycles). (Free pickup of E-Waste from residential buildings with ten or more units)
- *Non-Profit Computing*, (212) 759-2368; [german63@hotmail.com](mailto:german63@hotmail.com). (Clearing house for a variety of computers, faxes, telephone systems and other electronic equipment)
- *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)
- *Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation*, (877) 723-2925; [www.call2recycle.org](http://www.call2recycle.org). (Lists cell phone recycling locations)

- *Salvation Army*, 268 West 96<sup>th</sup> Street, NYC, (212) 663-2258, (212) 337-7200; [www.salvationarmy-newyork.org](http://www.salvationarmy-newyork.org). (Accepts small amounts of computers and peripherals, TVs, cell and wall phones and other small electronic equipment. From individuals only.) (Accepts small amounts of computers and peripherals, TVs, cell and wall phones and other small electronic equipment. From individuals only.)

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

- *Best Buy Stores*, [www.bestbuy.com](http://www.bestbuy.com). Uptown locations: 1280 Lexington Avenue (86<sup>th</sup> St.), (917) 492-9959; 1880 Broadway (62<sup>nd</sup> St.), (212) 246-9734; 750 Seventh Avenue (49<sup>th</sup> St.), (212) 265-3984. (Accepts computers, peripherals, TVs, audio & video equipment, wires & cables and cell phones)
- *Goodwill*, 217 West 79<sup>th</sup> Street, NYC 10024, (212) 874-5050; [www.goodwill.org](http://www.goodwill.org).
- *Staples*, [www.staples.com](http://www.staples.com). (Accepts computer equipment, ink-jet and toner cartridges)
- *Verizon*, [www.verizonwireless.com/hopeline](http://www.verizonwireless.com/hopeline). (Accepts used cell phones and accessories at their stores)

#### C. ELECTRONICS RECYCLING EVENTS/MISCELLANEOUS

- *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)

### HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

- *NYC Department of Sanitation*, call 311 for information, instructions and locations of sites and events; [www.nyc.gov/safedisposal](http://www.nyc.gov/safedisposal). (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; Special Waste Sites accept latex paint, motor oil and filters, fluorescent bulbs, batteries, thermostats and mercury-containing devices on a weekly basis.)

### PAPER SHREDDING

- *Time Shred Services*, (800) 989-8463, (718) 875-1299; [www.timeshred.com](http://www.timeshred.com).
- *Cintas*, (800) 257-9805; <http://www.cintas.com/DocumentManagement/Document-Shredding>.
- [www.nyc.gov/ShredFest](http://www.nyc.gov/ShredFest). (Yearly paper shredding events in each borough)

### PLASTIC

All rigid (non-film) plastic, except Styrofoam, is now collected by the NYC Department of Sanitation (call 311; [www.nyc.gov/recycle](http://www.nyc.gov/recycle)). 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

- *Best Buy Stores*; [www.bestbuy.com](http://www.bestbuy.com). Uptown locations: 1280 Lexington Avenue (86<sup>th</sup> St.), (917) 492-9959; 1880 Broadway (62<sup>nd</sup> St.), (212) 246-9734; 750 Seventh Avenue (49<sup>th</sup> St.), (212) 265-3984. (Accept CDs, DVDs and cassette tapes)
- *Lower East Side Ecology*, (212) 477-4022; [www.lesecologycenter.org](http://www.lesecologycenter.org). (Accepts CDs, DVDs and cassette tapes at its collection events and warehouse)

## Miscellaneous

- *Ashley Resins*, 5114 Fort Hamilton Pkwy, 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 79<sup>th</sup> Street Greenmarket [79<sup>th</sup> & Columbus Avenue], 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Sundays; at the 97<sup>th</sup> Street Greenmarket [97<sup>th</sup> & Columbus Avenue], 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Fridays; and at Columbia University Greenmarket [Broadway betw. 114<sup>th</sup>-115<sup>th</sup> Sts.], 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Thursdays and Sundays; also accepted in Inwood and other Manhattan locations; check website for hours)
- *Len Rosenstein*, (917) 884-2415, [lrosenstein3@nyc.rr.com](mailto:lrosenstein3@nyc.rr.com). Will accept yarn as part of the Blankets of Love program for poor people. Go to the lobby of 285 West End Ave and see the concierge.
- *re-fashionNYC*, 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)
- *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)

### B. THRIFT SHOPS (Upper West Side only – see [www.nyc.gov/stuffexchange](http://www.nyc.gov/stuffexchange) for other NYC locations)

- *Goodwill*, 217 West 79<sup>th</sup> Street, NYC 10024, (212) 874-5050; [www.goodwill.org](http://www.goodwill.org).
- *Housing Works*, 306 Columbus Avenue between 74<sup>th</sup> & 75<sup>th</sup> Streets, (212) 579-7566; and 2569 Broadway between 96<sup>th</sup> & 97<sup>th</sup> Streets, (212) 222-3550; [www.housingworks.org](http://www.housingworks.org).
- *Salvation Army*, 268 West 96<sup>th</sup> Street, NYC, (212) 663-2258, (212) 337-7200; [www.salvationarmy-newyork.org](http://www.salvationarmy-newyork.org).

## CARPETING

- *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

- *Books Through Bars*, Brooklyn, NY, (212) 254-3697; [www.booksthroughbarsnyc.org](http://www.booksthroughbarsnyc.org). (Donates books to prisoners)

- *Build It Green!NYC*, 3-17 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Astoria, Queens, (718)777-0132; [www.bignyc.org](http://www.bignyc.org). (Accepts building materials, furniture, fixtures and appliances)
- *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)
- *Recycle-a-Bicycle NYC*, 75 Avenue C, NYC, (212) 475-1655; [www.recycleabicycle.org](http://www.recycleabicycle.org). (Accepts used bicycles)
- *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)
- *Whole Foods*, 97th & Columbus Avenue. (Accepts wine bottle corks [real cork, not plastic])

*(Revised June 2014)*