



# DONATION GUIDE

## HOW TO DONATE

1. The Idea Store accepts donations of one grocery bag or less any time during our donation hours of 12:00 PM-5:00 PM Wednesday-Friday and 10:00 AM-4:00 PM Saturday. For larger donations, please book an appointment at <https://www.the-idea-store.org/book-online>.
2. Pack your donation in a container that you are ready to part with. We cannot empty and return containers. If you can, place your donation in the trunk of your car. If you have other items in your trunk, make sure to mark your donation clearly. We cannot accept donations of more than 3 copy paper-sized boxes per appointment. Oversized donations that do not fit in boxes (e.g. large frames, bolts of fabric, dress forms, etc.), will be taken at the discretion of donations staff. If you have more than 3 boxes to donate, please make multiple appointments. If you have a very large donation (a carload or more), please call us at (217) 352-7878 or email [donations@the-idea-store.org](mailto:donations@the-idea-store.org) and we will help you schedule it.
3. Please make sure that your donations are clean (e.g. free of rodent droppings, mildew, stains, dead bugs, bad smells, etc.)
4. Drive to the west side of the mall (accessible through the south parking lot) and park near the double blue doors with our name and phone number on it and pop your trunk. Give us a call at (217) 352-7878 and a staff member will come out to help you. We cannot accept donations left unattended at our back doors or brought to the front of the store. Please do not leave items unattended by our doors as it is a fire and security hazard. Any items dumped at our doors may be rejected and/or go directly to the landfill.
5. We may review the contents of all donations before accepting them. This process goes very quickly if you use bags, containers, or clips to organize your donation by category!
6. We are a tiny nonprofit with space and staff constraints, so sometimes we may need to ask you to hold your donation until we have room to accept it. We appreciate your patience!

**If you're unsure about an item, please ask the following questions:**

- Is it dirty? Is it smelly or moldy, or has it been stored outside or in a musty garage/attic/basement?
- Is it unsafe? Does it contain toxic materials (e.g., mercury thermometers) or have sharp edges?
- Would it be more appropriate for another thrift or reuse outlet (e.g., clothing, furniture, building materials)?
- Is it a personal care or medical item?
- Is it culturally or racially insensitive?

If you answered “yes” to any of the questions above, please don’t donate your item to the store!

If you are still unsure, please call us at (217) 352-7878 or email [donations@the-idea-store.org](mailto:donations@the-idea-store.org).

If we cannot take your items, please consider donating to another donation accepting organization

|                                      |                                                     |                |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Carle Auxiliary Resale Boutique      | 810 W University Ave, Urbana                        | (217) 326-5001 |
| Habitat for Humanity ReStore         | 1914 Glenn Park Dr, Champaign                       | (217) 359-0507 |
| PACA Architectural Salvage Warehouse | 44 E Washington St, Champaign                       | (217) 359-7222 |
| Twice is Nice                        | 607 W Elm St, Urbana                                | (217) 328-2724 |
| Salt and Light                       | 1819 Philo Rd, Urbana<br>1512 Anthony Dr, Champaign | (217) 355-5654 |

# Idea Store Donation Guide

| Items To Donate                            | Not<br>Currently<br>Accepted | Items To Donate                     | Not<br>Currently<br>Accepted |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Arts &amp; Crafts</b>                   |                              | <b>Metal</b>                        |                              |
| Art Paints (No House Paint Or Spray Paint) |                              | Keys, Locks, Keychains              |                              |
| Paintbrushes                               |                              | Small Machinery Parts, Gears        |                              |
| Kids' Craft Items                          |                              | Sheet Metal Pieces                  |                              |
| Pastels & Charcoal                         |                              | Craft & Industrial Wire             |                              |
| Canvases, Sketchbooks, Paper Pads          |                              | Unused Foil Trays                   |                              |
| Clay, Sculpture Tools                      |                              | <b>Paper Goods</b>                  |                              |
| Scrapbooking Materials                     |                              | Stationery                          |                              |
| Gift & Fabric Ribbon                       | X                            | Printer Paper                       | X                            |
| Photos & Negatives                         |                              | Postcards, Postage Stamps           | X                            |
| Craft Foam                                 |                              | Envelopes & Greeting Cards          | X                            |
| Slides                                     |                              | Photo Paper                         | X                            |
| Picture Frames (No Loose Glass)            |                              | <b>Toys &amp; Games</b>             |                              |
| Framing Hardware                           |                              | Games & Game Parts                  |                              |
| Glue Guns & Sticks                         |                              | Small Toys                          | X                            |
| Rubber Stamps                              | X                            | Puzzles, Complete Or Incomplete     |                              |
| Easels, Drawing Boards                     |                              | Dolls, Doll Clothes & Parts         | X                            |
| Calligraphy Pens & Fine Art Pencils        |                              | Tennis, Golf, & Other Small Balls   |                              |
| Mat, Poster, Sign Board, Foamcore, Precut  |                              | Jelly & Snap Bracelets              | X                            |
| Posters & Prints                           | X                            | Mardi Gras Beads & Leis             |                              |
| <b>Fabric &amp; Yarn</b>                   |                              | <b>Books &amp; Magazines</b>        |                              |
| Fabric (2"x2" Pieces Or Larger)            |                              | Art, Craft, Science, & Nature Books |                              |
| Yarn                                       |                              | Magazines                           | X                            |
| Needlework, Knitting, Etc.                 |                              | Atlases                             | X                            |
| Sewing Tools                               |                              | Vintage Picture Books               |                              |
| Notions                                    |                              | Vintage Magazines                   | X                            |
| Working Sewing Machines                    |                              | National Geographics (Pre-1980)     |                              |
| Buttons                                    |                              | Comic Books                         |                              |
| Felt                                       |                              | Sheet Music                         | X                            |
| Elastic, Velcro, Hem Tape                  |                              | <b>Floral &amp; Natural</b>         |                              |
| Needlework Kits                            |                              | Artificial Flowers & Greenery       |                              |
| Uncut Sewing Patterns                      |                              | Floral Tape, Foam, Wire             |                              |
| Original Knitting & Needlework Patterns    |                              | Feathers                            |                              |

|                                                 |   |                                              |   |
|-------------------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------------------|---|
| Sewing Notions                                  |   | Dry bouquet materials                        |   |
| Leather Pieces                                  |   | Film Canisters                               |   |
| Trim, Rickrack, Bias Tape                       |   | Seashells/Other Ocean Artifacts              |   |
| <b>Ephemera</b>                                 |   | Rocks & Gems                                 |   |
| Maps                                            | X | Containers                                   |   |
| Gift Wrap & Bags                                |   | Baskets & Vials                              |   |
| Unused Office Paper                             |   | Tins                                         |   |
| Construction Paper                              |   | Small Boxes (Jewelry/Gift Boxes)             | X |
| Art Paper                                       |   | Small Vases & Decorative Containers          |   |
| <b>Wood</b>                                     |   | <b>Jewelry &amp; Gifts</b>                   |   |
| Boxes, Blocks, Dowels, Golf Tees                |   | Jewelry & Jewelry Parts, Beads               |   |
| Short (Less Than 3'), Nail-Free Scrap           |   | Jewelry Making Tools & Supplies              |   |
| Balsa & Basswood, Craft Shapes, Beads           |   | Vintage & Unique Items                       |   |
| Driftwood                                       |   | <b>Electronics &amp; Media</b>               |   |
| <b>Home Improvement</b>                         |   | CDs & DVDs                                   |   |
| Hardware                                        | X | VHS & Cassette Tapes                         | X |
| Tile                                            | X | Vinyl Records                                | X |
| Loose Architectural Samples (All Types)         | X | Floppy Disks                                 |   |
| Carpet, Flooring, & Countertop Samples          | X | Computer Parts & Keyboards                   |   |
| Sample Books (Wallpaper & Fabric Only)          |   | Cords, Cables, & Working Chargers            |   |
| Tools                                           | X | CD Covers                                    | X |
| Toolboxes & Storage Containers                  | X | Analog Equipment                             |   |
| Knobs, Finials, Hooks                           | X | Record Players, Typewriters, Phones, etc.    |   |
| <b>School &amp; Office</b>                      |   | Cameras & Photography Equipment              |   |
| Office Supplies                                 | X | <b>Other Items</b>                           |   |
| School Supplies                                 | X | Spools & Cones                               |   |
| Writing Utensils (Pens, Pencils, Markers, etc.) | X | Award Medals, Ribbons, Trophies              |   |
| Lab Glass & Supplies, Magnifiers                | X | Cardboard Tubes (NO TP TUBES)                |   |
| Folders                                         | X | Glassware (Glasses, Jars, Bottles, etc.)     | X |
| Binders                                         |   | Rubber Stoppers                              |   |
| Paper Clips, Staples, Binder Clips              |   | <b>Specific Items Not Currently Accepted</b> |   |
| Labels & Stickers                               | X | Plastic Silverware                           |   |
| Lanyards & Name Tags                            |   | Plastic Bottle Caps                          |   |
| Report Covers, Page Protectors                  | X | Candle Dyes and Scents                       |   |
| Sticky Notes, Notepads                          | X | Used Loose Candles                           |   |
| Tape, Glue                                      |   |                                              |   |

|                                                                                                          |  |                                                                                           |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Packing Materials                                                                                        |  |                                                                                           |  |
| Classroom Materials & Décor<br>(Flashcards, Bulletin Board Edgings,<br>Manipulatives, etc.)              |  |                                                                                           |  |
| Retired Swag (No T-Shirts)                                                                               |  |                                                                                           |  |
| <b>Never Accepted</b>                                                                                    |  |                                                                                           |  |
| Aerosol Cans                                                                                             |  | Pine Cones                                                                                |  |
| Clothing, Bedding, & Clothing Scraps                                                                     |  | Printer Ink Cartridges                                                                    |  |
| Clothes Hangers                                                                                          |  | Toilet Paper Tubes                                                                        |  |
| Cosmetics                                                                                                |  | Toothbrushes/Toiletries                                                                   |  |
| Egg Cartons                                                                                              |  | Plastic Grocery Bags (using them to<br>contain other donation items is okay)              |  |
| Household Recyclables                                                                                    |  | Computer Monitors                                                                         |  |
| House Paint                                                                                              |  | Used/Open Cleaning Supplies                                                               |  |
| Light Bulbs                                                                                              |  | Broken/Non-Functioning Electronics<br>(unless vintage, such as old walkmans<br>or radios) |  |
| Medical Supplies & Equipment (contact<br>lens cases, air supply tubing,<br>denture/retainer cases, etc.) |  | Large Furniture (couches, chairs, TV<br>stands, etc.)                                     |  |
| Product Packaging (phone/laptop boxes,<br>internal plastic, etc.)                                        |  | Large Power Tools (table saws, band<br>saws, etc.)                                        |  |
| Pet Toys & Accessories                                                                                   |  | Insense                                                                                   |  |
| Loose Glass Panes                                                                                        |  | Soap Dispenser Caps                                                                       |  |
| Christmas Decorations (crafts are okay)                                                                  |  | Water Bottles                                                                             |  |
| Ice Packs                                                                                                |  | Soap-Making Supplies                                                                      |  |