



# 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 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 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 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 clean? Is it smelly or moldy, or has it been stored outside or in a musty garage/attic/basement?
- Is it safe? 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 used 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 1512 Anthony Dr, Champaign	(217) 355-5654

# Idea Store Donation Checklist

Items To Donate	Not Currently Accepted	Items To Donate	Not Currently 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	
Pens, Pencils, Markers, Pastels		Unused Foil Trays	
Canvases, Sketchbooks, Paper Pads		<b>Paper Goods</b>	
Clay, Sculpture Tools		Stationery	
Scrapbooking Materials		Postcards, Postage Stamps	
Photos & Negatives		Envelopes & Greeting Cards	X
Craft Foam	X	Photo Paper	
Slides	X	<b>Toys &amp; Games</b>	
Picture Frames (No Loose Glass)		Games & Game Parts	
Framing Hardware		Small Toys	X
Glue Guns & Sticks		Puzzles, Complete Or Incomplete	
Rubber Stamps	X	Toy Sets	
Easels, Drawing Boards		Dolls, Doll Clothes & Parts	X
Mat, Poster, Sign Board, Foamcore, Precut		Tennis, Golf, & Other Small Balls	
Posters & Prints		Mardi Gras Beads & Leis	
<b>Fabric &amp; Yarn</b>		<b>Books &amp; Magazines</b>	
Fabric & Fabric Scrap (2"x2" Pieces Or Larger)		Art, Craft, Science, & Nature Books	
Yarn		Magazines	X
Needlework, Knitting, Etc.		Atlases	
Sewing Tools		Vintage Picture Books	
Notions		Vintage Magazines	X
Working Sewing Machines		National Geographics (Pre-1980)	X
Buttons		Comic Books	
Felt	X	Sheet Music	X
Elastic, Velcro, Hem Tape		<b>Floral &amp; Natural</b>	
Needlework Kits		Artificial Flowers & Greenery	
Sewing Patterns, Uncut		Floral Tape, Foam, Wire	
Original Knitting & Needlework Patterns		Feathers	
Leather Pieces		Film Canisters	X

Ribbon, Trim, Rickrack, Bias Tape		Seashells, Other Ocean Artifacts	
<b>Ephemera</b>		Rocks & Gems	
Maps		Containers	
Gift Wrap & Bags		Baskets & Vials	
Office Paper, Unused		Tins	X
Construction Paper		Small Boxes (Jewelry, Gift, Phone 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>Items For Store Use</b>	
<b>Home Improvement</b>		Scotch & Packing Tape	
Hardware	X	Wrapped Paper Towels	
Tile		White Printer Paper & Cardstock	
Loose Architectural Samples (All Types)	X	Natural Cleaning Supplies (Please No Bleach)	
Sample Books (Wallpaper & Fabric Only)		<b>Electronics &amp; Media</b>	
Tools		CDs & Dvds	
Toolboxes & Storage Containers		Cassette Tapes	
Knobs, Finials, Hooks		Vinyl Records	
<b>School &amp; Office</b>		Floppy Disks	
Office Supplies		Computer Parts & Keyboards	
School Supplies		Cords, Cables, & Working Chargers	
Lab Glass & Supplies, Magnifiers		CD Covers	X
Binders	X	Analog Equipment: Record Players, Typewriters, Phones, Etc.	
Paper Clips, Staples, Binder Clips		Cameras & Photography Equipment	
Labels & Stickers		<b>Never Accepted</b>	
Lanyards & Name Tags		Aerosol Cans	
Report Covers, Page Protectors		Clothing & Clothing Scraps	
Sticky Notes, Notepads	X	Clothes Hangers	
Tape, Glue		Cosmetics	
Packing Materials		Egg Cartons	
Classroom Materials & Décor (Flashcards, Bulletin Board Edgings, Manipulatives)		Household Recyclables	
Retired Swag (No T-Shirts)		House Paint	
<b>Other Items</b>		Light Bulbs	

Spools & Cones		Medical Supplies & Equipment	
Cardboard Tubes (No TP Tubes)	X	Pill Bottles	
Rubber Stoppers		Pine Cones	
Carpet, Flooring, & Countertop Samples	X	Broken/Non-Functioning Electronics	
Award Medals, Ribbons, Trophies		Printer Ink Cartridges	
<b>Specific Items Not Currently Accepted</b>		Toilet Paper Tubes	
Christmas Decorations		Toothbrushes/Toiletries	
Neck Ties		Plastic Grocery Bags (using them to contain other donation items is okay)	
Plastic Silverware		Large Furniture (Couches, Chairs, TV Stands, etc.)	
Plastic Bottle Caps		Computer Monitors	