DONATION POLICY

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 (the link can be found at the bottom of this document).

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 and we will help you schedule it. If you have any questions about items we do and do not take, email us at donations@the-idea-store.org.

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.

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

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) 367-8357
Salt and Light	1819 Philo Rd, Urbana 1512 Anthony Dr, Champaign	(217) 355-5654

Idea Store Donation Guide

Items To Donate	Not Currently Accepted	Items To Donate	Not Currently Accepted
Arts & Crafts		**Metal**	
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		**Paper Goods**	
Scrapbooking Materials		Calendars	X
Gift & Fabric Ribbon	X	Stationery	
Photos & Negatives		Printer Paper	X
Craft Foam		Postcards, Postage Stamps	X
Slides		Envelopes & Greeting Cards	X
Picture Frames (No Loose Glass, No Larger than 16X20)		Photo Paper	X
Framing Hardware		**Toys & Games**	
Glue Guns & Sticks		Games & Game Parts	
Rubber Stamps	X	Small Toys	X
Easels, Drawing Boards		Puzzles, Complete Or Incomplete	
Calligraphy Pens & Fine Art Pencils		Dolls, Doll Clothes & Parts	X
Mat, Poster, Sign Board, Foamcore, Precut		Tennis, Golf, & Other Small Balls	
Posters & Prints	X	Jelly & Snap Bracelets	X
Fabric & Yarn		Mardi Gras Beads & Leis	
Fabric (2"x2" Pieces Or Larger)		**Books & Magazines**	
Yarn		Art, Craft, Science, & Nature Books	
Needlework, Knitting, Etc.		Magazines	X
Sewing Tools		Atlases	X
Notions		Vintage Picture Books	
Working Sewing Machines		Vintage Magazines	X
Buttons		National Geographics (Pre-1980)	X
Felt		Comic Books	
Elastic, Velcro, Hem Tape		Sheet Music	X
Needlework Kits		**Floral & Natural**	
Uncut Sewing Patterns		Artificial Flowers & Greenery	
Original Knitting & Needlework Patterns		Floral Tape, Foam, Wire, Stakes	X

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

Packing Materials	X	Used Loose Candles	
Classroom Materials & Décor (Flashcards, Bulletin Board Edgings, Manipulatives, etc.)	X	Picture Frames Larger than 16X20	
Retired Swag (No T-Shirts)		Exercise VHS Tapes	
Never Accepted			
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 contain other donation items is okay)	
Household Recyclables		Computer Monitors	
House Paint		Used/Open Cleaning Supplies	
Light Bulbs		Broken/Non-Functioning Electronics (unless vintage, such as old walkmans or radios)	
Medical Supplies & Equipment (contact lens cases, air supply tubing, denture/retainer cases, etc.)		Large Furniture (couches, chairs, TV stands, etc.)	
Product Packaging (phone/laptop boxes, internal plastic, etc.)		Large Power Tools (table saws, band saws, etc.)	
Pet Toys & Accessories		Insense	
Loose Glass Panes		Soap Dispenser Caps	
Christmas Decorations (crafts are okay)		Water Bottles	
Ice Packs		Soap-Making Supplies	

Once you have reviewed our donation policy and guide, you may book an appointment here.

Thank you :)