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 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.

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		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, No Larger than 16X20)		**Toys & Games**	
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	
Fabric & Yarn		**Books & Magazines**	
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)	X
Buttons		Comic Books	
Felt		Sheet Music	X
Elastic, Velcro, Hem Tape		**Floral & Natural**	
Needlework Kits		Artificial Flowers & Greenery	
Uncut Sewing Patterns		Floral Tape, Foam, Wire	X
Original Knitting & Needlework Patterns		Feathers	

Sewing Notions		Dry bouquet materials	
Leather Pieces		Film Canisters	
Trim, Rickrack, Bias Tape	X	Seashells/Other Ocean Artifacts	
Ephemera		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	
Wood		**Jewelry & Gifts**	
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		**Electronics & Media**	
Home Improvement		CDs & DVDs	
Hardware	X	VHS & Cassette Tapes	
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.	
School & Office		Cameras & Photography Equipment	
Office Supplies	X	**Other Items**	
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		**Specific Items Not Currently Accepted**	
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		Picture Frames Larger than 16X20	

Packing Materials	**X**	Exercize VHS Tapes	
Classroom Materials & Décor (Flashcards, Bulletin Board Edgings, Manipulatives, etc.)	**X**		
Retired Swag (No T-Shirts)			
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	