

Top Places to Donate/Sell Goods

Ah, spring! Time to open up those windows, let the fresh air in, wipe away the dirt and clutter that accumulated over the winter, and start anew. While spring cleaning can give you a renewed sense of purpose and a fresh start, all of that reorganization can lead to you finding there's quite a bit of "stuff" in your home that you and your family no longer need or want, and as the old saying goes, one person's trash is another person's treasure. So whether you're doing your annual "tidy-up" or packing up for a move, here are some tips on locations to donate your gently used items and give THEM renewed purpose, too!

1. **Goodwill:** With over 3200 locations nationwide, - many of which offer an extremely convenient drive-up garage, - Goodwill is one of the most popular and easy places to donate your stuff. Goodwill take nearly everything, (check out <https://www.amazinggoodwill.com/donating/donor-guidelines> for a full list of items) and with their new partnership with Dell, they are now even taking computers and other electronic devices, refurbishing them, and putting them back into the community. Some Goodwill locations are also adding pick-up services, so give your local Goodwill a call.
2. **Habitat for Humanity Restore:** If there's a Habitat for Humanity location near you (a list of locations is provided on <https://www.habitat.org/restores>), than consider donating your unwanted household goods to this wonderful non-profit. HFH is an especially great place to consider if you have large pieces of furniture you would like to donate, as they will pick them up for free at your home; all you need to do is call and schedule a pick-up time.
3. **Dress for Success:** Ladies, if you have some work clothes that have been hanging in the back of your closet waiting for you to get back to that "ideal weight", now's as good a time as any to donate those items to Dress for Success (check <https://dressforsuccess.org/> for your closest location.) This wonderful non-profit empowers women in the community by providing them with gently used professional attire to help them ace that job interview and start out a new career with the best foot forward, and you can use all that new space in your closet as an excuse to go on a shopping spree!
4. **Baby2Baby:** If you're still storing all those baby toys and books that your 13-year old hasn't noticed for years, it might be time to clean house and donate those items to a charity like Baby2Baby (<http://baby2baby.org/>) Started by two young moms and best friends, Baby2Baby has donated over 50 million baby items to children in need, particularly specializing in providing replacement items to children who have been hit by natural disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina. Check the website for a donation location near you.
5. **Libraries:** Throwing away a book is considered bad luck for a reason. If you've accumulated a significant collection of books that you know you'll never have time to read again, a great place to donate is your local library. Most libraries take books of all kinds in good condition, as well as CD's and DVD's. It's a great way to give back to and invest in your local community. You can look at the American Library Association

website (<http://www.ala.org/>) to find a location near you.

6. **Food Shelves:** If you're getting ready for a move but don't want to take the whole pantry with you, consider donating canned and packaged goods that haven't expired to your local food shelf. Any unexpired packaged items can feed a family in need. You can pack them up in a box and donate them yourself, or call your local food shelf and see if they partner with any pick-up service resources. Try contacting Move for Hunger (<https://www.moveforhunger.org/>), a great service that partners with many different moving companies to take those items off your packing list and put them in the hands of people who need them.
7. **Pick Up Please.** If you're looking to move discarded items as quickly as possible, try contacting Pick Up Please (<https://pickupplease.org/>). Pick Up Please is run by the Vietnam Veterans of America, and they can schedule a pick-up of your items within 24 hours. All you have to do is schedule the pick-up, leave the labeled boxes outside your door, and Pick Up Please will take care of the rest (and leave a slip for tax deduction purposes). It's a terrific, easy way to help veteran's families.

Reminder: don't forget to save all those donation slips! All of the donation services listed above will provide you with some type of receipt detailing your donation, and those records will come in hand during tax time, another annual spring rite! **HAPPY DONATING!**

