

Things You May Not Know are Recyclable

I've been tossing scratched DVDs and wine corks for years and didn't know I had a choice to recycle! Take a peek at this list (some of which I garnered from Co-op America's "21 Thing You Didn't Know You Could Recycle," Fall 2007 and some from other resources) and see if you can recycle even more than you already are:

- **Appliances:** Goodwill accepts working appliances or you can contact the Steel Recycling Institute to recycle them. 800-YES-1-CAN or www.recycle-steel.org.
- **Batteries:** Rechargeable and single-use, contact Battery Solutions at 734-467-9110 or www.batteryrecycling.com
- **CDs/DVDs/Game Disks:** Send scratched music or computer disks, including PlayStation or Nintendo disks to AuralTech for refinishing, and they'll work like new. Contact them at 888-454-3223 or www.auraltech.com. I checked them out online and it looks like the repair cost is \$3.49 each with \$3.25 return shipping. You can also recycle CDs by sending them to Plastic Recycling in Indianapolis. Call 317-780-6100 to learn more.
- **Clothes:** Locally, you can donate your nice women's work clothes to New Directions Clothing Closet, who has partnered with Goodwill. To learn more about drop-off locations, call 614/849-0028 or www.newdirectionscc.org. You can also offer unwearable clothes and unusable towels to your local animal shelter to use as bedding.
- **Computers and other ewaste:** Locally, contact Ohio Computer Recycling at 614/856-0523 or www.ohiodropoff.com to find out drop-off locations for computers, TVs and other electronics. Makes more sense then adding them to a landfill! There are other companies in Central Ohio that take these recyclables—check in the yellow pages. You could also use Project KOPEG to recycle iPods, MP3 players, cell phones and chargers, digital cameras, PDAs, palm pilots, and more and raise funds for you organization. To learn more, go to www.proejtkopeg.com. Another option is Green Disk—the Techno Trashcan. Contact them at 800/305-GREENDISK, www.greendisk.com.
- **Eyeglasses:** Most local eye doctors and some area churches collect these to give to people in need. Lenses are reground and sometime the frames are reused.
- **Foam Packing:** Your local pack-and-ship store may accept foam "peanuts" for reuse. Or you can call the Plastic Loose Fill Producers Council to find a drop-off site (800/828-2214).
- **Miscellaneous Items:** Get rid of your unwanted items by offering them up on your local Freecycle.org or Craigslist. Org listserv. (Delaware County has a very active group.) You can also try giving them away at Throwplace.com or giving or selling them at iReuse.com, which will also help you find a recycler. I'm not familiar with these, but they sound interesting.
- **Sports Equipment:** Resell or trade it at Play It Again Sports in Dublin. Old tennis shoes can be given to Nike's Reuse-a-Shoe program which turns old shoes into playground and athletic flooring. Look at www.nikereusashoe.com. One World Running will send still-wearable shoes to athletes in need in Africa, Latin America and Haiti. Check out www.oneworldrunning.com.
- **Toothbrushes and Razors:** Buy a recycled plastic toothbrush or razor from Recycline and they will take it back to be recycled again into plastic lumber. Their products are made from recycled Stonyfield Farms' yogurt cups! Now that's recycling at its best. Contact them at www.recycline.com.
- **Tyvek envelopes:** Quantities less than 25, send to Shirley Cimburke, Tyvek Recycling Specialist, 5401 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Spot 197, Room 231, Richmond, VA 23234. Quantities larger than 25, call 866/33-TYVEK.
- **Wine corks:** Wine corks can be recycled through Yemm & Hart who recycles them into wine cork flooring tiles. For more info, look at www.yemmhart.com, Another program called Korks 4 Kids, through Recycle Cork USA, collects natural wine corks which are then made into tack boards, coasters, flooring and other products. The proceeds from this recycling are donated to children's charities. For more info, contact www.recyclecorkusa.com.

You never know what you can reuse and recycle, so be sure and check it out before you toss it out. A great local resource is Keep Delaware County Beautiful at www.delawarehealth.org. Happy recycling and Welcome Spring!

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