

What to do with Hard-to-Recycle Items in New York City

Information provided by Upper West Side Recycling Center, Inc.

If you don't know whether an item is accepted by the Department of Sanitation, contact them (see below); please call the organizations with phone numbers included before bringing or sending materials to them.

General Information

Department of Sanitation tel: 311; www.nyc.gov/recycle (recycling collection schedules, NYC Recycling laws, and other ways to reduce the waste stream)

NYC Stuff Exchange www.nyc.gov/stuffexchange (to find places to buy, sell or donate used goods in your neighborhood in your neighborhood)

www.wastematch.org (free NYC online marketplace where organizations can list items for sale or donation)

www.freecycle.org (online materials exchange)

www.newyork.craigslist.org (online materials exchange)

Upper West Side Recycling jtwine@synerjy.com

Batteries & Lighting (see also Household Hazardous Waste)

All rechargeable batteries must be recycled; you can bring them back to any store that sells them. Lead-acid car batteries must be accepted by the retailers that sell them. Cover contacts of small batteries with electrical tape before shipping.

Businesses must recycle fluorescent lamps. Compact fluorescent light bulbs are called CFLs below:

Build It Green!NYC 3-17 26th Avenue, Astoria, Queens; tel: 718-777-0132; bignyc.org.
Accepts fluorescent light bulbs and ballasts at its store

Council on the Environment of New York City tel: 212-676-2081; recycling@cenyc.org; cenyc.org
CFLs accepted weekdays in East Harlem, Washington Heights and the Lower East Side; weekends also on the Lower East Side.

Department of Sanitation 605 W. 30th Street; tel: 311; www.nyc.gov/recycle
See listing below for Household Hazardous Waste.

Duane Reade (various NYC locations)
Accepts flashlight-type batteries for free.

Eastern Environmental Technologies 47 Purdy Avenue, Port Chester, NY 10573; tel: 914-934-2100; 800-808-7227; www.easternenvironmental.com.
Accepts and recycles fluorescent lights, transformers and ballasts, as well as batteries on a fee basis. Will pick up large quantities.

Home Depot (various NYC locations)
Accepts and recycles unbroken CFLs.

Inmetco 1 Inmetco Drive, Ellwood City, PA 16117; tel: 724-758-2800; www.inmetco.com
Accepts all dry cell batteries (flashlight-type) for a small per-pound charge.

www.lamprecycle.org (for list of companies that recycle light bulbs).

Mercury Waste Solutions 21211 Durand Avenue, Union Grove, WI 53182; tel: 800-741-3343; www.mwsi.com
Accepts alkaline, lead-acid, lithium, magnesium, mercury, nickel-cadmium and silver oxide batteries for a small fee/pound; can be shipped via UPS or mail.

Radio Shack (various NYC locations)
Accepts flashlight-type batteries for free.

Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation tel: 877-2RECYCLE
Call for list of local battery recycling locations.

Staples (various NYC locations)
Accepts NiCd and other rechargeable dry cell (flashlight-type) batteries.

Sylvania tel: 978-777-1900, 800-5434-4828; www.sylvania.com/Recycle
Accepts all fluorescent bulbs and ballasts, including CFLs and longer bulbs.

Universal Metals 10 Hartford Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY 10550; tel: 914-664-0200
Accepts NiCd and other nickel-containing batteries, as well as lithium ion batteries (from cell phones, laptop computers, etc). Small or no charge for NiCd's; no charge for other batteries and will pay if delivered in large quantities. Can be sent by UPS or mail, or picked up for a fee.

Computers, Cell Phones and Other Electronic Equipment

After July 1, 2010 it will be illegal to discard these electronic items. For further information, see www.nyc.gov/nycwasteless/electronics

A. Charitable Organizations and Recyclers

Build It Green!NYC 3-17 26th Avenue, Astoria, Queens; tel: 718-777-0132; bignyc.org.
Accepts cell phones and toner cartridges at its store

Computers for Youth 322 Eighth Ave., NYC 10001; tel: 212-563-7300; info@cfy.org; www.cfy.org
Accepts newer IBM- compatible computer systems from corporations and refurbishes for reuse in schools and other non-profits. Minimum of 50 pieces. Will pick up at no charge.

Material for the Arts 33-00 Northern Blvd., Long Island City, NY 11101; tel: 718-729-3001;
info@mfta.nyc.govwww.mfta.org
Accepts newer computer systems in working condition (up to 5 years old only) and other electronic equipment. Free pickup.

Non-Profit Computing tel: 212-759-2368; german63@hotmail.com
Clearing house for a variety of computers, faxes, telephone systems and other electronic equipment.

Per Scholas 1375 Bronx River Ave., Bronx NY 10460; tel: 718-991-8400, 800-877-4068;
www.perscholas.org
Accepts computer systems (including monitors) and components then refurbishes them for reuse in schools or recycling of component materials (older models). Also takes cell phones, stereos and other electronic equipment. Will pick up for a fee in large quantities.

Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation tel: 877-2RECYCLE
Call for list of local cell phone recycling locations.

Technical Career Institute-Dare to Dream Program tel: 212-594-4000 x5777
Accepts IBM-compatible later-model computers, monitors and systems in working order for distribution to disadvantaged people. No minimum number of pieces; free pickup.

Staples (various NYC locations)
Accepts used cell phones.

B. Manufacturer and Retail Take-Back Programs

Apple www.apple.com/environment/recycling
Accepts Apple computers monitors and other peripherals free if returned to the store purchased at, or for a fee if you ship to them.

Canon www.canon.com
Accepts toner cartridges.

Dell www.dell.com/recycle
Accepts Dell computers monitors and other peripherals for free.

Epson www.epson.com/recycle

Accepts Epson printers and scanners for a \$10 fee including shipping.

Hewlett Packard www.hp.com/united-states/hho/buyback-recycle

HP will buy back computers, monitors, printers and faxes, scanners, toner cartridges and other peripherals and supplies of any brand.

IBM www.ibm.com/environment/products

Offers IBM PC recycling service for a fee, including shipping. IBM will also buy back newer computers if delivered to them.

Staples (various NYC locations)

Accepts used cell phones.

C. Electronics Recycling Events/Miscellaneous

Upper West Side Recycling tel: 212-865-9595 and

Lower East Side Ecology tel: 212-477-4022; www.lesecologycenter.org

Both host E-Waste recycling events during the year, mainly from September through June.

Community-based organizations accept computers, peripherals, cell phones and other E-waste; For more information, tel: 311; www.nyc.gov/nycwasteless/electronics.

Household Hazardous Waste

Department of Sanitation 605 W. 30th St., Manhattan; Fresh Kills Landfill, Staten Island, Muldoon Ave. Entrance; for information, instructions and locations in other boroughs, tel: 311; www.nyc.gov/recycle)

Accepts latex paint, motor oil and filters, transmission fluid, household and automotive batteries, fluorescent bulbs, thermostats; 10am-5pm Saturdays except 10-5 Friday the last day of the month. No cleaning fluids, oil-based paints, medical wastes, pesticides

Eastern Environmental Technologies 47 Purdy Avenue, Port Chester, NY 10573; tel: 914-934-2100; 800-822-7227; www.easternenvironmental.com.

Accepts paint, inks, chemicals, cleaners, oils and solvents.

Plastic

Plastic Bottles and Jugs

(with neck or screw-off top) are collected by the NYC Department of Sanitation tel: 311; www.nyc.gov/recycle). Plastic bags are required to be accepted for recycling in stores of more than 10,000 sq. feet and with more than 5 NYC locations.

Compact Disks

www.greendisk.com tel: 800-305-DISK; 425-392-8700

Accepts audio CDs for a small fee.

Polycarbonate/Miscellaneous

Ashley Resins 5114 Fort Hamilton Pkwy. Brooklyn, NY 11219; tel: 718-851-8111; www.ashleypoly.com

Accepts 5-gallon polycarbonate bottles (from water fountains) as well as items made of nylon and other plastic resins; will pick up in large quantities.

Polystyrene

Mail Boxes, Etc. and UPS Stores (various locations), tel: 800-789-4623

Accept expanded polystyrene (styrofoam) peanuts and other packaging material

The Packaging Store 37-11 35th Ave, Long Island City, NY 11101; tel: 212-566-5151; www.packnyc.com

Accepts expanded polystyrene (styrofoam) peanuts and other packaging material.

Plastic Loosefill Council tel: 800-828-2214; www.loosefillpackaging.com

Contact to find local stores accepting polystyrene peanuts.

Textiles: Fabric, Sheets, Clothing, Etc.

(No carpeting. Wearable clothing may also be donated to thrift shops, see below)

A. Recyclers

Council on the Environment of New York City tel: 212-676-2081; recycling@cenyc.org; cenyc.org
Textiles accepted weekdays in Inwood, Union Square and Tompkins Square; check for hours.

Emerson Recycling 63 Emerson Place, Brooklyn, NY 11205; tel: 718-622-1799

Accept mixed textile cuttings from companies and ship overseas for reprocessing and reuse. Pickup for free or for a per-pound fee, depending on quality and quantity.

Millwiping 1656 East 233rd Street, Bronx, NY 10466; tel: 718-994-7100; millrags@optimaonline.com
Deals mainly with large organizations; will pick up clean textiles that have been separated by type of fiber. Payment depends on quality and quantity.

Trans-Americas Trading Co. Clifton, NJ; tel: 973-778-4611; tranclo@tranclo.com; www.tranclo.com
Picks up and pays for large quantities of clean, post-consumer textiles from organizations, including clothing and other household items such as towels, curtains, sheets and bedspreads. Accepts mixed fibers.

Wearable Collections www.wearablecollections.com

-Organizes textile recycling and picks up from residential buildings and community organizations.

B. Thrift Shops

(Upper West Side only – see yellow pages or www.nyc.gov/stuffexchange for other NYC locations)

Goodwill 217 W. 79th Street, NYC 10024; tel: 212-874-5050

Housing Works 306 Columbus Ave (74th-75th streets), NYC 10023; tel: 212-579-5138

Salvation Army 268 W. 96th Street, NYC 10025; tel: 212-663-2258

Carpeting

Carpet Cycle 447 Schiller St., Elizabeth, NJ; tel: 908-353-5900; info@carpetcycle.com; www.carpetcycle.com
Removes and recycles old carpeting and padding from commercial buildings for a fee.

Miscellaneous

Build It Green!NYC 3-17 26th Avenue, Astoria, Queens; tel: 718-777-0132; bignyc.org.
Accepts building materials and appliances at its store.

Pedals for Progress High Bridge NJ, tel: (908) 638-4811; office@p4p.org; www.p4p.org
Accepts used bicycles.

Recycle-a-Bicycle NYC 75 Avenue C, NYC 10002; 21-475-1655; www.recycleabicycle.org
Accepts used bicycles

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