

What should I do with...?

1. Books, hard and soft cover

- If your books are suitable for reuse, contact local charities, community groups and second-hand bookstores, or try online exchanges, textbook clearinghouses (like <http://www.books4exchange.com/>) and buy-and-sell websites. You can also promote literacy and education via the **International Book Project** <http://www.intlbookproject.org/>.
- If the books are in poor shape, however, remove any hard covers and discard; the rest can be recycled by your municipal recycling program.

2. Cars

- Recycle your old vehicle and receive a tax receipt from Car Heaven: <http://www.carheaven.ca/ON/index.asp>. Or contact the Ontario Automotive Recyclers Association <http://www.oara.com/index.php>.

3. Construction waste and renovation materials

- Get a tax receipt for any reusable renovation materials such as doors, windows, cabinets and other fixtures and fittings by donating them to a **Habitat ReStore** <http://www.habitat.org/env/restores.aspx> or local salvaged building materials companies (check your YellowPages).
- For construction waste or fixtures that are no longer reusable, call your local municipality or check your YellowPages for construction waste recyclers

4. Electronics, peripherals and media

- Look up provincially audited e-waste drop off locations near you <http://www.recycleyourelectronics.ca/>
- Consider donating your equipment for reuse to groups like **Computers for Schools** <http://cfs-ope.ic.gc.ca/Default.asp?lang=en>, **Reboot Canada** <http://www.rebootcanada.ca/>, **Little Geeks** <http://www.littlegeeks.org/> or a local community service agency.
- Contact your municipality or local e-waste recycler for advice on recycling.
- Toner cartridges and ink can usually be dropped off at office supply stores or a **Canadian Diabetes Association** recycling partner: <http://www.diabetes.ca/>.
- Cell phones and ink cartridges can also be donated to **think FOOD** to benefit local food banks <http://www.think-food.com/>.

5. Fabric, textiles and clothing

- Items in good repair can be donated to organizations like **Goodwill** <http://www.goodwill.on.ca/> or the **Canadian Diabetes Association** <http://www.diabetes.ca/> for resale, or given to a local shelter.
- If items are not suitable for donating, however, here are some other ideas:
 - ✓ Use rags as cleaning cloths.
 - ✓ Add fabrics and rags to compost (natural fibres only!) and only in small quantities.
 - ✓ Donate scraps and fabrics to local schools for arts & crafts projects.
 - ✓ Donate bedding & towels to local animal shelters.
 - ✓ Contact companies that buy such items, like <http://www.wipingrag.net/>.

6. Furniture and household goods

- Sell your items by hosting a yard or street sale, or by placing an ad in a newspaper or on-line. Sites such as: <http://www.buysell.com/>, <http://www.kijiji.ca/>, and <http://www.craigslist.org/> are good places to start.
- Give your items away via <http://www.freecycle.org/> or a local social service agency or shelter.
- Green Standards takes office furniture and donates it to charities: <http://greenstandardsltd.com/>
- Smoke detectors only last about ten years but should be disposed of carefully as they contain radioactive Americium 241. Many manufacturers now offer a “take back” service and will accept spent detectors for proper disposal. Send First Alert, BRK and Family Guard Smoke Detectors to BRK Brands. Please call to confirm model numbers, quantity and get shipping instructions: 1-800-323-9005. Ship American Sensors and Dicon Global Smoke Detectors to Dicon Inc. Please call to confirm model numbers, quantity and get shipping instructions: 1-800-387-4219.

7. Household hazardous waste

- Paint, batteries and other toxic materials that shouldn't be placed in your garbage or recycling bins can be taken to an approved drop-off location: <http://www.makethedrop.ca/>

8. Personal care items

- Eye glasses, hearing aids and mobility/hospital equipment can all find second homes thanks to the good work by **humanitarian organizations** around the world. Ask your professional practitioner (optician, audiologist, etc.), local service clubs (like the Lions), or faith groups for program details.

9. Plastic bags

- Find out where to take back plastic bags for recycling at <http://www.myplasticbag.ca/>.

More helpful links:

Locate local charities: <http://www.charityvillage.com/>

Donate surplus or bulk products to: <http://www.inkindcanada.ca/>

Find local recycling solutions: <http://www.yellowpages.ca/>