

# The Benefits of REUSE...



*Instead of discarding items you no longer want or need, consider whether they can be reused. Reuse is different from recycling. When you “reuse” an item, you keep it whole or intact, and then sell or donate it for use again.*

## **Reuse has many benefits, including:**

- Saving money on disposal costs
- Conserving natural resources, energy, and raw materials
- Returning products and materials back into the economy and fostering job creation
- Helping people who need the item but cannot afford to buy it new

## **THINK BEFORE YOU BUY**

By buying only what you need, you save money, reduce clutter in your home or office, and reduce the amount of “stuff” that you need to get rid of. Look for good quality items that are durable, fixable, reusable, or recyclable.

## **Benefits of Donation Include:**

- Your donations are tax deductible
- Provides items for people in need
- One person’s trash is another’s treasure

## **DONATE GOOD QUALITY ITEMS**

If the item is in good condition – donate it! Many charities and social programs accept good condition items for donation. Some operate second-hand shops and will re-sell your donated items to generate income to fund the non-profit organization’s mission. Others pass the items on directly to those people most in need, which could be in your community or in underdeveloped countries around the globe.



## REFURBISH, REMANUFACTURE, REBUILD, & RENOVATE

Some items not suitable for donation or re-sale, may be repaired or restored.

*"Refurbishing, remanufacturing, rebuilding, or renovating"* means some or all components of the item are removed, repaired, and/or replaced.

You can look for Do-It-Yourself (DIY) tutorials on the internet or find inspiration through community Facebook pages, YouTube videos, and Pinterest boards.



There are many examples of "fix-it clinics" or "repair cafes" in communities across the country. At these types of events, residents bring in items such as small household appliances, clothing, and electronics, and receive free guided assistance from skilled volunteers to disassemble, troubleshoot, and fix their items. For more information, visit: <http://repaircafe.org/en/>.

### Benefits of a Fix-It Clinic Include:

- Items are fixed for **FREE** (except the costs of any new replacement parts)
- Customers learn valuable new repair skills
- Connections are built within the community
- The amount of repairable items thrown in the trash is reduced

### Local Reuse Options:

You can always gift or re-sell good quality used items to friends and family, or through yard sales or online exchanges. Or bring your items to local reuse or donation centers. Always call first to confirm they can accept the items you have.

### STORE YOUR UNWANTED ITEMS SO THEY CAN BE REUSED

If you have good quality items you no longer want or need, consider whether someone else might find them useful. To keep them in good condition for the next person, make sure to properly store them. For example, you might have a piece of furniture you don't need so you put it outside by the road, hoping that someone will drive by and pick it up. The problem is, if nobody picks it up right away, and the furniture is left exposed to the elements, it can get ruined and then be of no use to anyone.

*This handout focuses on the importance of **Reuse**. It is one in a series developed for rural transfer stations to improve safety and promote waste reduction. For additional documents visit: [www.newmoa.org/solidwaste/projects/transferstations/publications.cfm](http://www.newmoa.org/solidwaste/projects/transferstations/publications.cfm).*

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