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Donate Your Household Items when You Move by John Cherry

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One of the best parts about moving is that it forces you to go through all of your belongings and get rid of items you do not need or want. In fact, if you move often, you probably donâ€™t have a lot of stuff around your house because you understand that you donâ€™t want to move more than you have to. After all, movers charge by weight and the more you pack, the more you will have to pay.

Typically, when people begin their packing process, they sort their items into four piles: things they want to keep, things they want to toss, things they want to sell and things they want to donate. The first three categories are fairly straight forward. Pack the items you want to keep, throw away the items you want to toss and have a garage or online sale for the things items you want to sell. The fourth category, however, can be a little bit tricky. How do you know which organization you should donate your items to? Here is a guide to places that will take your used items.

1. Consignment stores. These are nice because you can often get a store credit for the items you donate. Once you move into your new house, you can go back to the store and get some new things. Some consignment stores offer you cash up front or cash after your items sell. This isnâ€™t really donating your items, but you can make a little money this way.

2. Thrift stores. These places will usually take all of your useable items off your hands. In fact, they will typically pick them up from your house, which is nice because you are going to be busy with packing and getting ready for your moving company to arrive. These stores often give back to their community and gives jobs to disabled and disadvantaged people.

3. Shelters. Many of your household items can be of good use in shelters for battered women, homeless people, abused children and other people trying to get back on their feet.

You will be able to find a list of these organizations in your local phone book or you can contact your chamber of commerce for places that accept donations. If all else fails, you can check online want ads for people or organizations that need used items. There is no shortage of people who will find your castoffs useful.

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John is a shrewd consumer who writes about personal finance, finding deals, and local consumer home services like: a movers in Boston and a movers in Houston.

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