

# REUSE AND RECYCLING RESOURCES

Provided by **SCARCE**

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[www.scarce.org](http://www.scarce.org)

**SCARCE** is committed to keeping “stuff” out of the landfill by finding a way to reuse or recycle it. SCARCE collects the following items. Please bring them to SCARCE during our regular business hours ONLY. Please deliver items in boxes – we have extras you can use. DONATIONS OF 10+ BOXES MUST CALL AHEAD TO SCHEDULE DELIVERY.

- **Books in any condition**
- **LP Records**
- **School and Office Supplies**
- **Yarn**
- **Crayons**
- **Scrap Metal (small items)**
- **Altoids Mint Boxes**
- **Keys (household, luggage, car)**
- **American Flags**
- **Holiday Lights**
- **Bowling Balls**
- **Cords & Connectors (phone, computer)**
- **Box Tops for Education**
- **Buttons**
- **Canning Equipment**
- **Musical Instruments**
- **Cork**
- **Brita and PUR Water Filters & Accessories**
- **35 mm Film Canisters**
- **SOLO Cups**
- **Eyeglasses**
- **Non-working Pens, Markers & Mechanical**
- **Empty Tape Dispensers & Rolls**
- **Pencils**
- **Medical Equipment**

## COOKING OIL

Permanent Collection Sites for cooking oil Disposal:

### **City of Wheaton**

Public Works Yard (South side of 821 W Liberty)  
2nd Saturday of each month from 9am - 12 pm

### **Wheaton Sanitary District**

1S640 Shaffner, Wheaton  
Every Saturday, 10 am - 12 pm

### **Glenbard Wastewater Authority**

21W551 Bemis Rd Glen Ellyn  
M - F 7:30 am - 3 pm | 630-790-1901

### **Winfield Township Vegetable Oil Collection**

30W575 Roosevelt Rd Winfield  
Mondays 7 am - 11 am (excluding holidays)

## ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

Electronic items contain chemicals such as cadmium, lead and mercury. If not properly recycled, these chemicals can make their way from landfills into our soil, water and air. In 2013, Illinois residents recycled more than 20 million pounds of electronics. Electronic manufacturing companies are required to fund electronic recycling. There is a formula which requires them to pay for the number of pounds of electronic recycling equal to the pounds sold. Twenty million pounds exceeds what they sold in the year.

**Many drop-off sites in and around DuPage County are currently on hold for the time being.**

In the meantime, please double check with each individual drop off site to be sure it is still operating and confirm what is being accepted at that specific location before loading up your car with electronics.

**Accepted Items Vary (Always Confirm With Each Location What They Accept)**

NO hazardous waste accepted at any collection. Visit the links for each retail location to view a list of what they accept.

- **Computers**
- **Printers & Fax Machines**
- **Radios**
- **Microwaves**
- **Vacuum Cleaners (remove dust bag)**
- **Small Appliances**
- **Coffee Makers**
- **Toasters**
- **Curling Irons & Hair Dryers**
- **Rechargeable Household Batteries**
- **Toner Cartridges**

## Locations in DuPage County

### Lisle

4930 Lincoln Avenue, (IL Rt. 53) Lisle  
3rd Saturday of each month 9 AM – 11 AM  
Most Household electronics. Flat Screen TVs ONLY  
DuPage County Residents Only.

### West Chicago (Groot)

1995 Powis Road West Chicago  
Saturdays 8 AM – 11 AM  
Contact Groot at (877) 775-1200 with any questions

### Wheaton

Public Works Storage Yard, 820 W. Liberty Drive (near Wheaton Police Department)  
Second Saturdays of each month 9 AM – Noon  
Most household electronics. FLAT SCREEN TVs ONLY.  
<https://www.wheaton.il.us/electronics/>  
(Wheaton Residents Only)

## MEDICINE DISPOSAL

The advice used to be that old medicine should be flushed down the toilet. Now, scientists find that these medicines are polluting our waterways, including those we use for drinking water. The Pharma-Fish graphic from April 2010 *National Geographic* (right) shows the proportions of various medicines found in the North Branch of the Chicago River, downstream from the wastewater treatment plant. So, to protect water quality, it is better to take medicines to a local police station that has a RxBox for disposal.

### What Happens to the Medicine?

It is incinerated. This process completely destroys the active ingredients in the medicine. Although this is not an ideal situation (for air quality), it is better than flushing it down the toilet – where the medicine gets into the waterways, and better than the garbage, where the medicine may drain into the soil and the groundwater.

### Disposal Details

Medicine that is no longer needed can be disposed of at certain police stations (see list below) and the Naperville Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility.

Just **empty all the pills into a zip lock bag**. The bottles or container that it came in can be disposed of separately (look for the recycling triangle). The police stations have very limited space to collect the old medicine and do not want your personal information from the prescription bottle.

### **Accepted Items**

- **Prescription & Over-the-Counter Medications**
- **Medicated Ointments**
- **Liquids Containing Medications**
- **Prescription**
- **Over-the-Counter Inhalers**
- **Glass Thermometers - Mercury**
- **Only residentially-generated medication items**

### **Items Not Accepted**

Sharps/Needles, Bio-Hazardous materials (Wound dressings), Radioactive Medicines, Other Household Wastes

### **Police Stations with Collections**

This list of DuPage County police stations changes frequently. Be sure to check with your local station to find out if they have a collection started.

- Addison
- Bloomingdale
- Burr Ridge
- Carol Stream
- Clarendon Hills
- Downers Grove (by appointment 630-434-5681)
- DuPage County Sheriff
- Elk Grove Village
- Elmhurst
- Glen Ellyn
- Glendale Heights
- Itasca
- Lemont
- Lisle
- Schaumburg
- West Chicago
- Wood Dale

### **Other Medicine Collection Sites**

#### **Barlett Village Hall**

Last Saturday of each month 9 AM - Noon

#### **Naperville HHW site**

Weekends only. 9 AM - 2 PM (Excluding holidays)

## PAINT RECYCLING

Residents can drop off their USABLE, unwanted latex paint during the designated summer collections listed below, free of charge. Usable paint is paint that has not been frozen, is less than 10 years in age and has not been mixed with other products.

**Free Recycled Latex Paint:** The paint will be filtered and re-blended into a variety of colors, types and finishes. Recycled paint will be distributed to residents for free during same hours at location. Paint is offered free of charge to any resident, business, non-profit, etc. in 5-gallon containers.\

### Paint Disposal Collection Sites

**Woodridge Greene Valley Wastewater Treatment Facility**  
7900 S Route 53, Woodridge

## SMOKE DETECTORS

Did you know that the smoke detector in your home has a small amount of radioactive material (AM-241) inside of it? Because of this material, it is dangerous to simply throw your detector into a landfill. Proper disposal of your detector is available:

### For First Alert or BRK Send To:

First Alert Disposal 3901 Liberty Street Aurora IL, 60504 (confirm with USPS to see if there is a special label for mailing smoke detectors)

### For Other Brands:

Curie Environmental in New Mexico will take any smoke detector back for a small price \$8.00/detector. Specific instructions on how to send the detector to them at [www.curieservices.com](http://www.curieservices.com). You will need: quantity & microcuries (found on the back of detector) Pay online (using PayPal). Print out the shipping label (USPS or UPS). For questions [\(505\) 888-9392](tel:5058889392).

Each company takes apart the detectors to recycle the plastic and other re-usable materials. The radioactive material is then separated and sent to a landfill that is specially designed to take in radioactive waste.

## PUMPKINS

*Why Keep Pumpkins Out of the Landfill?* They are full of nutrients that are good for the soil. They are 90% water. Most of the pumpkins processed in the United States are grown in Illinois – keep the water and nutrients here! Landfills are the 3rd largest producers of methane gas. Composting pumpkins returns nutrients and water back to our earth. In 2014, Wheaton, Elmhurst and SCARCE hosted the first pumpkin recycling collections in DuPage County! This collection was a huge success and composted **9.31 tons** of pumpkins. Collection sites as of 2015:

**Addison • Carol Stream • Downers Grove • Elmhurst • Glen Ellyn • Itasca • Lisle • Naperville Villa Park • Westmont • Wheaton**

Check [www.scarce.org](http://www.scarce.org) in the fall for collection sites.