



Mend it, sell it, donate it... reuse it

Leicestershire's Reuse Directory

A guide to help you find new and innovative ways to reuse everyday items in Leicestershire.



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Foreword

Leicestershire Waste Partnership launched the reuse campaign in November 2009 to encourage residents to reduce their waste by mending, selling and donating unwanted items.

As part of the campaign the Greenes, Leicestershire's reuse family, are here to help you find new and innovative ways to reuse items. Not only will it reduce your waste, it is also a fantastic way to save money by making the most of items you already have.

Throughout this directory you will find information about the different ways you can reuse items, including hints and tips for how you can reuse items in your home.

We hope you find it useful and if you have any reuse ideas to share with us please email them to wasteprevention@leics.gov.uk or telephone 0116 305 7005. We can add these to our website or future versions of the directory.

This directory is mainly an online downloadable publication, to aid in reducing the amount of paper and other resources used in a publication whose contents will go out of date rather quickly.

Future updates to this directory will be available from www.lesswaste.org.uk. If you do not have access to a computer and printer, remember your local library may have these facilities. Otherwise please call us on 0116 305 7005 and we will send you the relevant section(s) that you require.



Section 1: What is reuse?

Reuse generally means using something again rather than wasting it either through throwing it away or leaving it at the back of a cupboard or garage.

Reusing everyday items can be really easy – think creatively and most things can be used for something else. Don't forget someone else using your unwanted items also counts as reuse!

Reusing items reduces the amount of waste going to landfill and reduces the need to use new resources. It can also save you money and it can be satisfying to find a way to use something rather than throw it away!



Did you know?

- It is estimated that each year the UK population throws away over £5.6 billion worth of good quality reusable items.
(Source: Freeuse Leicestershire, www.freeuseit.org)
- 10 million items of furniture are thrown away in the UK every year. 3 million of these items could be easily reused; more could be repaired.
(Source: Furniture Reuse Network, www.frn.org.uk)
- Many items can be reused over and over again, on average; a milk bottle is reused 20 times.
(Source: Waste online, www.wasteonline.org.uk)



Section 2:

Finding an item to reuse

Think before you buy!

Before you buy something new or replace an old item think about whether you really need it, and if so, does it need to be brand new? Ask yourself...

Can it be repaired?

- There are lots of things you can mend yourself, or ask a family member or friend who could be able to help.
- Your local tailor/cobbler can mend clothes/shoes.



Can you buy it second hand?

Second hand items can be a lot cheaper than buying brand new and are often just as good.

- Try looking on websites for second hand items or in your local charity shops, where you might find yourself a bargain. You'll also be reusing someone else's unwanted items that would otherwise be sent to landfill.
- Charity shops are a great place to find vintage clothes; you could alter them yourself or take them to a seamstress if needed.
- Your friends and family might have items they no longer use which they would be willing to give/sell to you.
- Reclamation yards can be great places to find some hidden treasures, find your nearest one in your local or online directory.

Useful links (click to open):

- www.charityshops.org.uk
- www.leicester.co.uk
- www.preloved.co.uk
- www.billsboard.co.uk
- www.ebay.co.uk
- www.yell.com
- www.ThomsonLocal.com

Can you acquire it for free?

There are several websites where people advertise items they no longer need for other people to have for free.

Useful links (click to open):

- www.freeuseit.org
- www.freecycle.org
- www.bookaid.org
- www.vskips.co.uk
- www.2recycle.co.uk
- www.efreeko.co.uk
- www.snaffleup.co.uk

Can you borrow from family or friends?

- There are often expensive items we need that will be used only once or twice and end up taking up storage space and gathering dust. See whether you can borrow the item from a friend or family member. This is a great way to save money and resources!

Or if you don't know anyone who owns the item you need...

Can you share it with family and friends?

- It can be easier and more cost effective to buy items that won't be used regularly with your family, friends or neighbours, for example ladders, carpet cleaners, decorating equipment, pressure washers, camping equipment, lawn mowers and drills.

Can you hire it?

- Your local DIY shop will often hire out various items that are not needed on a regular basis. It's usually cheaper than buying them brand new.



Section 3:

Giving an item for reuse

There are a number of ways that you can give an item you no longer need a new lease of life, and give someone else the opportunity to reuse your item. You could...

Sell them

- Your unwanted items can be a great way to make some extra cash – remember one person's rubbish is another person's treasure!
- Try selling your items online or through your local newspaper.
- Some shops will buy your used or pre-owned items such as DVD's, video games, games consoles to sell on for someone else to use.
- Car boots and garage sales are another way to sell your unwanted items.
- There are several websites which take mobile phones and other electrical items for reuse or recycling and send you money in return.



Useful links (click to open):

- www.recyclingforcash.co.uk
- www.simplydrop.co.uk
- www.envirofone.com
- www.mazumamobile.com

See Section 2 under "Can you buy it second hand?"

See Section 5 for tips on how to hold a garage sale or attending a car boot sale

Donate them

- Charitable organisations, including local charity shops would love any items you can donate. Some also take unwanted furniture.
- Unwanted furniture, electrical items and household items can also be donated to Furniture Reuse Projects (See Section 8).
- Youth clubs, Scout groups and other community organisations often hold jumble sales where donated items would be appreciated.
- Marks and Spencer's offer a voucher to people who donate their unwanted clothes. For more information visit plana.marksandspencer.com.

Useful links (click to open):

- www.throwplace.com
- www.charityshops.org.uk

See Section 2 under "Can you acquire it for free?"

Lend them

If you have items that you will need again but are not being used to their full effect, then why not lend them to others. This could be done as a neighbourhood scheme so different households lend out different items. For example one household could own a

pressure washer, another could own a carpet cleaner so that each household in the scheme owns one item. The items are lent out to each other as needed.

Swap them

There are many items you could swap when you have finished with them, such as books.



Useful links (click to open):

- www.greenmetropolis.com
- www.readitswapit.co.uk

Give them away

- Items that you no longer need may be what someone else is after so you can give your items away for free to friends, family or through websites such as Freeuse and Freecycle.
- Pass on items through Local Exchange Trading Systems. Find a system at www.letslinkuk.net

Useful links (click to open):

- www.freeuseit.org
- www.freecycle.org

See Section 2 under "Can you acquire it for free?"

Section 4:

Freeuse website

The Freeuse website is an easy way to give unwanted items a new lease of life, either by giving items away, or taking them, all for free! The website offers a simple way for residents in the Leicestershire area to advertise items they no longer want, or pick up items they need, all items are free and the site makes it easy for givers and takers to use.

It's estimated that £5.6 billion pounds worth of good quality usable household items are thrown away in the UK every year. That's why we've created Freeuse, where you can quickly and easily advertise your unwanted possessions, or search for an item that you could put to good use.

Visit www.freeuseit.org for more information and to start giving and taking items for free!

The Freeuse site has been developed building on the original successful site developed by North-West Leicestershire District Council in July 2008 and has been expanded to cover both Leicestershire and Leicester City. The website is owned and operated by the Leicestershire Waste Partnership.



Section 5:

Car boot and garage sales

Car boots sales and garage sales are great ways to reuse items you may no longer need.

Car boots are organised and advertised by someone else and therefore can be easier and are normally well attended. There is often an entrance charge per car, and space can be limited.

Tips for attending a car boot sale:

- Try and find as many items as possible, a variety of items will be more attractive to visitors. If you don't have that much stuff to sell, consider sharing a stall with a friend or neighbour; this also halves the cost of the stall and ensure a toilet break.
- It's a good idea to visit a car boot before hand, to see how others sell their goods and what sells well, plus you will get an idea of the prices to charge.
- Remember to bring lots of change and a safe container for your money. Once you start taking notes lock them in your car or put them safely in your pocket. Don't leave your money on view.

- For the best chance of selling your goods make sure they are clean and in good working order.
- Label or write down the prices you want for each item before the car boot. Some people will haggle, but many people won't, and if there's no price they won't give it a second look. Take extra stickers with you, so you can drop/up your prices as required.



- Bring a pasting table, a colourful tablecloth and a plastic sheet to cover your stall in case of a shower. It's a good idea to bring folding chairs, sun cream, warm clothes and a second plastic sheet to spread on the ground to display items.
- Place your most eye-catching and attractive items at the front of the table, take the time to make items look as appealing as possible and try to put items in some kind of order or theme. For example – kitchen items, clothes, household, outdoors, toys and so on. Colourful signs for any larger/more expensive items, with any useful information in bold letters can help attract buyers.
- There will be buyers on site already looking for bargains, some may approach you before you are set up. Don't let them panic you, think carefully before selling off your best items too soon. Remember people love to haggle. Be prepared to stick to your guns and don't be afraid to say no or even come back with a counter offer. Don't sell off your best items for a knockdown price within the first 10 minutes of getting there; you can always reduce your price as the day goes on.
- Don't be worried about taking anything back home with you. What doesn't sell today, will sell next week.
- If you're there mainly to clear out junk, then take any reasonable offer. Some people usually price their stuff quite low (mainly because their mother has a house of old junk that they're trying to deplete for her!). You'll get a feel for pricing as you go along.

Garage sales

A garage sale will be organised and advertised by yourself, therefore could be more costly, but as it will be on your own land you can use as much space as needed. If you are part of a community group you could run a garage sale as a group, and the costs and workload could be split between the group.



Tips for holding a garage sale:

- Advertise the sale about 2 weeks before the day through local newspapers, websites and magazines as well as posters around the area.
- Put up signs to direct people to your sale.
- Put a price label on each item, but remember that people will haggle and want to pay a lower price.
- The more items you have the more likely people are to look round. If you don't have many items you could hold joint garage sales with neighbours.
- Think about how to display items, an attractive display can encourage passers by to visit your sale.
- Make sure you have some change from the start, and keep money safe.

Useful links (click to open):

- www.carbootsales.org
- www.carbootjunction.co.uk
- www.carboot.com



Section 6:

Give and take days

Give and take days are a great way to encourage your local community to reuse unwanted items. A give and take day is a swap event where people can donate items they no longer want, or take away anything they do want, all for free.

The key points to holding a give and take day are:

- **Finding a venue** – choose somewhere that is in a good location, has easy access and is large enough for visitors to walk around and see the donated items available. Make sure you consider health and safety and whether you need a first aider on site – the venue owners may be able to help with this.
- **Effective advertising** – the more you advertise the more donated items you will receive, put up posters or an advert in your local newspaper.
- **Clear guidelines on what can be donated** – it's up to you what you accept; items such as books, toys, kitchenware and furniture are easy to

check if they are in good condition. Be wary about electrical items as it is harder to check whether these are in a safe condition. Make sure you state that items need to be in good condition.

- **Decide how and when items will be donated** – if you can, get the donated items ready to display before visitors come to take them away.
- **Decide how many items visitors can take away** – it can be easier to limit visitors to take only 3 or 4 items depending on the number of items donated, but remember you want the items to go to a new home.
- **Plan what you will do with any leftover donated items** – usually donators will not want their items back if they are not taken by someone else. Local charities may want the leftover items.

Useful links (click to open):

- www.giveortake.org/toolkit.doc
- www.giveortake.org/got_how_to.doc
- www.northamptonshire.gov.uk

See Section 3 under “Donate them”



Section 7:

Paint reuse schemes



Blaby District Council runs a Community Paint Reuse Scheme.

The scheme enables residents to leave their unwanted paint in special collection containers at Whetstone Recycling and Household Waste Site and at Braunstone Civic Centre.

Once it is collected, the paint is sorted into types and colours ready to be re-distributed to community and voluntary groups, charities and schools. The paint is then reused locally for projects such as decorating youth clubs and village halls, painting murals, playgrounds and maintaining scout and guide huts.

This is a much better way to dispose of paint, which could otherwise cause pollution at landfill sites or contaminate materials for recycling.

Since March 2003 the scheme has re-distributed over 14,800 litres of paint. Over 20 tonnes of waste has been diverted from landfill. This year alone over 1,880 litres have been reused - over 2 tonnes.

The reuse paint scheme accepts:

- ✓ Emulsion
- ✓ Gloss
- ✓ Satin
- ✓ Eggshell
- ✓ Primer
- ✓ Undercoat
- ✓ Exterior paints
- ✓ Varnishes and woodstains

The following cannot be accepted:

- ✗ Car and industrial paints
- ✗ Thinners and paint strippers
- ✗ Aerosol and spray paints
- ✗ Paint over 10 years old

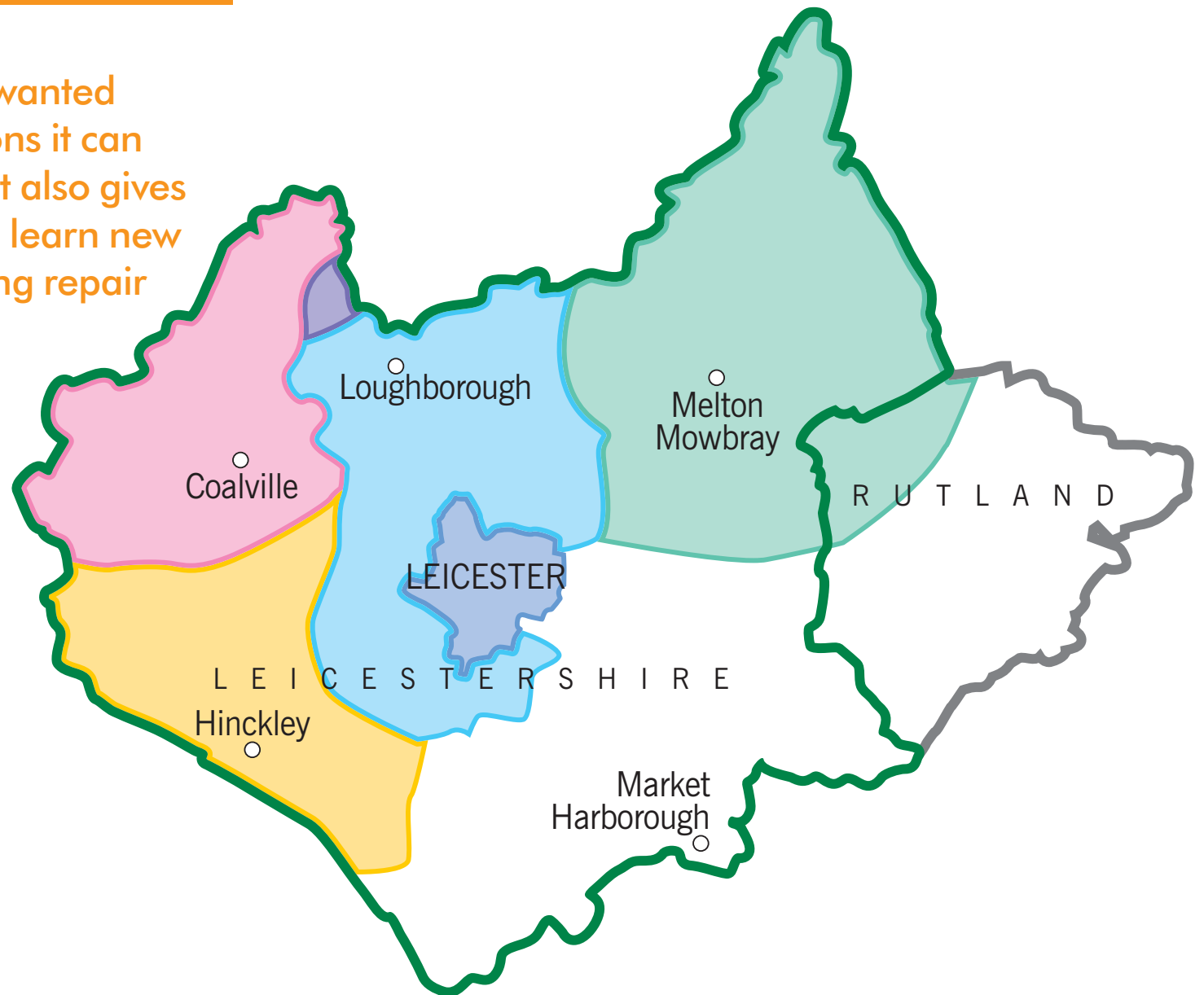
If you would like further information on the scheme, or if you know of a charity/community group that could make use of some free paint, please contact Blaby District Council on 0116 272 7555 or email env.health@blaby.gov.uk



Section 8:

Furniture reuse organisations

By donating your old and unwanted furniture to reuse organisations it can be given a new lease of life. It also gives volunteers the opportunity to learn new skills for employment including repair and restoration techniques.



Melton and District Furniture Project

The Warehouse, 3b Park Road,
Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, LE13 1TT

Telephone: 01664 410380

Fax: 01664 569745

Email: melton@meltonfurnitureproject.co.uk

Office opening times: Monday to Friday, 9am - 1pm

Showroom opening times:

The warehouse is open to the public
Tuesday to Friday, 9am - 1pm



What items do you accept?

- ✓ Good quality furniture of all descriptions is our 'bread and butter'
- ✓ Beds (single and double)
- ✓ Sofas
- ✓ Chairs
- ✓ Dining tables and chairs
- ✓ Coffee tables
- ✓ Wardrobes
- ✓ Dressers
- ✓ Wall units
- ✓ Small electrical goods

We will also accept ornaments, crockery, cutlery, baby equipment, toys, and other small items that someone may find useful when setting up a home on a limited income.

What items do you not accept?

Unfortunately due to statutory regulations it is not possible to accept soft furnishings without a CE label stating that the item is manufactured with fire retardant material after 1988. This project also does not accept:

- ✗ Televisions
- ✗ Microwaves
- ✗ Electric blankets
- ✗ Fridges
- ✗ Freezers
- ✗ Gas heaters
- ✗ Cookers

Why should I donate my furniture?

The Project collects unwanted good quality furniture, electrical goods, and bric-a-brac for re-distribution to people in receipt of any state benefit, or proof of low income.

How can I donate my furniture?

Simply telephone us on 01664 410380, there is a 24/7 answer phone, so leave a message during our non-opening hours, and we will ring you back as soon as we can; or call in at our office when we are open.

Will the furniture be carried out of my house?

Our volunteers are not allowed to carry items up or down stairs, items to be collected must be on the ground floor, and deliveries will only be made to a ground floor entrance.

Can I buy furniture from the project?

The Melton and District Furniture Project was set up to ensure that anyone in receipt of a state benefit could access inexpensive household furniture and accessories. This remains its main criteria for customer usage. However it has widened its remit to include

people within the Melton Borough and Rutland County Council areas who can show that they are in receipt of a low income, e.g. tax credits, etc.

Anyone having 'emergency needs' such as allocation of housing by local authorities without having furniture, can be helped via the Project's Referral System.

A variety of agencies are recognised as referral bodies through which a full house, or flat, of furniture can be agreed for a total cost of £100.00.

Can you deliver the furniture I choose to buy?

If the total of your purchases is £18.00 or more, it will qualify for free delivery. If your purchase does not total £18.00 you are responsible for making your own collection arrangements.

Training and volunteering opportunities

The Melton & District Furniture Project welcomes enquiries from anyone who wishes to offer their time as a volunteer or is seeking a suitable placement to gain work experience. It offers opportunities in administration; customer care; warehousing; multi drop and collection provision and information technology. If you have a particular need we will try to incorporate this into your time with the project.



REACT **(Rural Enterprise, Advice and Care Team Furniture Project)**

North West Leicestershire Council for
Voluntary Service
The Marlene Reid Centre,
85 Belvoir Road, Coalville,
Leicestershire, LE67 3PH

Telephone: 01530 512454/510515

Fax: 01530 814632

Email: pharris@nwlcvs.org.uk

lharrison@nwlcvs.org.uk

Office opening times: Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm

Showroom opening times:

The warehouse is open to the public Monday to
Friday 9.30am to 2.30pm.

What items do you accept?

- ✓ Beds
- ✓ Furniture
- ✓ Suites (with fire
legislation labels
attached)
- ✓ Carpets
- ✓ Computers
- ✓ Electric cookers
- ✓ Fridges/Freezers
- ✓ Washing machines
- ✓ TV's
- ✓ Radios
- ✓ Small electrical items
- ✓ Bicycles
- ✓ Garden equipment
- ✓ Tools
- ✓ Textiles and bedding
- ✓ Wood
- ✓ Baby equipment
- ✓ Selected office
furniture

What items do you not accept?

- ✗ Ripped furniture
and fitted kitchen
cupboards

About REACT

The REACT Project
operates a Recycled
Furniture Warehouse
where household items
are collected from
people wishing to donate
second-hand recyclable
furniture and electrical
goods. Electrical items
are PAT and fully function
tested by our qualified
electrician.



Why should I donate my furniture?

Not only are you helping to reduce landfill but you are also assisting people in receipt of low incomes to furnish their homes. Clients include, people who have been homeless, victims of domestic violence and other people who are in need from across the whole of North West Leicestershire.

How can I donate furniture?

We collect furniture from households within our collection area which covers North West Leicestershire and the top half of the District of Hinckley and Bosworth. To arrange a collection please call us between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Can I buy furniture from REACT?

We operate a two tier pricing system where people receiving means tested benefit can purchase furniture at a lower price. Persons not in receipt of benefits cannot purchase electrical items.

Every item is checked and repaired, if necessary, so that people in receipt of income support, housing benefit, Council tax benefit or working tax credits, may purchase the items for a nominal handling charge with free delivery.

Can you deliver the furniture I choose to buy?

We offer free delivery for all clients in receipt of means tested benefits. Delivery charge to general public dependant on distance.

Training and volunteering opportunities

In 2006 REACT was successful in obtaining a National Lottery CRED Programme award to develop a woodwork shop. Wooden furniture items are also refurbished, thus saving considerable waste tonnage going to landfill.

Training and work experience is also offered in the following areas:

- Domestic Appliance Repairs
- Reception
- Manual Lifting & Handling
- Health & Safety Introduction
- Warehouse
- Driver/Drivers Assistant
- Customer Care

We also offer assistance with CVs, application forms, job search and welfare rights as well as learning/training opportunities by qualified Information, Advice and Guidance advisers.



SOFA (Suppliers of Furniture & Appliances)

Towles Building, Nottingham Road,
Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 1DY

www.sofareuse.org

Telephone: 01509 262557

Fax: 01509 216208

Email: office@sofareuse.org

Showroom opening times:

The warehouse is open to the public Monday to Thursday
and Saturday, 10am to 4pm.

About SOFA

SOFA was established 30 years ago in Leicester, and moved to Loughborough in 2005. Based in Loughborough, we are a short walk from the railway station and we are near to Loughborough town centre. As a charity we rely on the help of volunteers. We believe in valuing our volunteers and trainees, and in welcoming people from different cultures and backgrounds.

What items do you accept?

- ✓ 3 piece suites
- ✓ Wardrobes and dressing tables
- ✓ Coffee tables
- ✓ TV, Hi-fi and DVD units
- ✓ Divan beds
- ✓ Electric cookers
- ✓ Microwaves
- ✓ Electric heaters
- ✓ Fridges
- ✓ Freezers

What items do you not accept?

- ✗ Glass topped tables
- ✗ Gas appliances
- ✗ Sideboards
- ✗ Large dark wood wardrobes
- ✗ Soft furnishings that don't have a fire safety certificate sewn into them
- ✗ TV's that do not have a remote control or a scart socket

We cannot accept any items that are stained, torn or have considerable damage.



Why should I donate my furniture?

- We save furniture from going to landfill
- We help people set up home by providing affordable resources
- We help people gain the confidence and skills to gain future employment

How can I donate my furniture?

If you have furniture that you would like to donate to SOFA and are within our collection area (see map for areas covered) please contact us by phone or email to arrange a collection.

The day of collection will depend on where you live. Collections are usually between 10.00am and 2.30pm on Mondays to Thursdays.

Alternatively you are welcome to bring your furniture to drop off at SOFA directly.

Can I buy furniture from SOFA?

Everyone is welcome to call in and browse around our furniture. Our staff are always available to provide advice and assistance if you need it. Prices for the public are displayed against a pink or red spot.

If you are presently in real need.... been flooded out, offered a new flat after being homeless, finding your feet after a divorce... we can offer the same furniture at a much discounted price.

All you need to do is to get in touch with someone who has been helping you...it could be a Health Visitor, Social Worker, Housing Association Worker etc. and ask them to fill in a Referral Form for SOFA. That will entitle you to lower prices for a whole year, while you equip your house. For a full list of referral agencies please contact SOFA.

If you have a Referral Form you will be able to buy furniture at a cheaper price, this will be displayed against a blue spot. On your first visit please contact a member of staff who will give you a membership card allowing you to buy at the lower price for a year.

If you have not got a Referral Form but you think that you may be entitled to cheaper prices, please contact us. We may be able to get in touch with one of the agencies that are familiar with you to arrange for them to provide you with a Referral Form.



Can you deliver the furniture I choose to buy?

We offer free home delivery if you live within our Leicestershire delivery area.

If you live outside our delivery area but within a 15 mile radius we will deliver for a charge of £30. For areas further than this, the charge is £40.

Referred clients would pay half the price. Of course, you are welcome to collect your furniture yourself.

If you are not in when we attempt to make delivery an administrative charge of £8 will be incurred.

Training and volunteering opportunities

We offer supportive work experience placements and volunteering in administration, warehousing and van delivery. Each trainee or volunteer has an individual personal development plan.

You can volunteer for as long or as short a time as you prefer and you are welcome to contact us about volunteering vacancies at any time.



Work-Link Project Hinckley

Amity House, 6 Holliers Walk,
Hinckley, Leicestershire, LE10 1QW

Telephone: 01455 636506

Fax: 01455 619763

Email: mail@worklinkproject.co.uk

Office opening times: Monday to Friday, 9am – 4.30pm

Showroom opening times:

The showroom is open Tuesday to Friday, 10am to 12noon and 1.30pm to 3pm.



What items do you accept?

- ✓ Good quality furniture of all descriptions
- ✓ Beds
- ✓ Sofas
- ✓ Tables
- ✓ Chairs
- ✓ Carpets
- ✓ Wardrobes
- ✓ Dressers
- ✓ Electric cookers
- ✓ Fridges
- ✓ Washing machines
- ✓ Microwaves
- ✓ Televisions
- ✓ Small electrical items
- ✓ Stereo/Radio
- ✓ Video/DVD players
- ✓ Bicycles
- ✓ Garden equipment
- ✓ Textiles and Bedding
- ✓ Some office furniture

We also accept crockery, cutlery and other items that someone might find useful when setting up home.

What items do you not accept?

- ✗ Unfortunately due to statutory regulations it is not possible to accept soft furnishings without a CE label stating that the item complies with Fire Regulations Act 1988. We are also unable to accept gas cookers, heating appliances such as electric blankets and fires.

About Work-Link

Established in 1986 Work-Link was formed to offer supportive volunteering and training opportunities around the recycling of furniture and to offer pre-loved furniture to people in receipt of government benefits or on a low income.

Why should I donate my furniture?

- Your donation will help an individual or family who otherwise may be unable to replace worn-out furniture or a broken electrical item.
- It gives volunteers an opportunity to learn new skills for employment including PAT testing, warehouse, office/reception and customer service skills.
- It saves the item from being sent to landfill.

How can I donate my furniture?

Simply telephone us on 01455 636506 or 01455 634449 to arrange a free collection. If you call outside of office hours please leave a message and we will respond as soon as possible to arrange a collection date.

Can I buy furniture from Work-Link?

Our new look showroom is very welcoming and enables customers to view and select their purchases and shows them they are valued. The Project was set up to ensure that anyone in receipt of state benefits could access inexpensive household furniture. This has been extended to include people in receipt of incapacity benefit, council tax and housing benefit, working tax credits, child tax credits, and pension credits. Please bring proof of benefit when you select your furniture.

Can you deliver the furniture I choose to buy?

We offer free delivery on all items of £15 or more within the Hinckley and Bosworth area.

Training and volunteering opportunities

In addition to our on the job training we offer accredited courses, units of a 'get into work' course and the opportunity to work towards NVQ 2 in Customer Service or Retail.



Baby Gear

47 Clarence Street (off Lee Circle),
Leicester, LE1 3RW

Telephone: 0116 2516415

Fax: 0116 2516415

Email: babygear@btconnect.com

Showroom opening times:

The shop is open Monday to Wednesday 9am to 4pm
and Thursday 9am -1pm.

About Baby Gear

We are a charity that refurbish quality second hand baby equipment for families on low income or benefits. Set up in 1981, we have now developed over the years to support families across Leicestershire. We provide supported training to people with mental ill-health and the long term unemployed. Our volunteers help us repair unwanted baby equipment to a safe standard, which is then passed on to families on benefits or low incomes. Volunteers gain valuable training and experience in employment skills.

What items do you accept?

- ✓ Pushchairs/ buggies/tandems
- ✓ Moses baskets
- ✓ High chairs
- ✓ Cots
- ✓ Fireguards
- ✓ Stairgates
- ✓ Cribs
- ✓ Playpens/travel cots

We also accept any good clothes, books, toys, blankets, bedding, and any other items deemed necessary or useful for young children.

What items do you not accept?

- ✗ Unfortunately we are unable to accept electrical items due to health and safety reasons.



Why should I donate my furniture?

Your donations will be refurbished and made safe to pass onto families on benefits or low income, who otherwise are not able to afford essential equipment for their young children. You will also be helping the environment by not sending your baby equipment to landfill.

How can I donate my furniture?

Either ring us on 0116 251 6415 during our opening times or e-mail us at babygear@btconnect.com.

Will the equipment be carried out of my house?

Our volunteers are not allowed to carry items up or down stairs, items to be collected must be on the ground floor and deliveries will only be made to a ground floor entrance.

Can I buy furniture from Baby Gear?

Families on low income or benefits can be referred through referring agencies for equipment. We also have a fundraising room (charity shop) which is open to the general public where items are available to purchase at a reasonable cost.

Can you deliver the furniture I choose to buy?

We have a volunteer driver only one day per week therefore deliveries can only be made on Tuesdays. There is a delivery charge of £5. You are welcome to collect from our premises during our opening times.

Training and volunteering opportunities

We provide training for people with mental ill-health and the long term unemployed. NOCN training is given in woodwork, light engineering, textiles and office skills both at level 1 & 2, which incorporates elements of employment skills.



Section 9: Reuse tips

- Old clothes that are beyond repair can be cut into rags to use around the house for cleaning.
- Keep old plastic take away containers to use as lunch boxes and storage containers.
- Hang onto your children's favourite toys as there is no reason why future grandchildren won't love them too!
- Rather than buying a DVD that you're likely to only watch once, rent films or borrow them from friends instead. Or visit your local library to borrow books, DVD's and CD's.
- Collect odd and spare buttons in an old biscuit tin or jar, you never know when you'll need one to mend your favourite outfit.
- Old newspapers can be used to polish windows after you have cleaned them.
- Why not set up a book swap box at work so you can share them with colleagues.
- Vintage clothing has become really fashionable in the last few years and helps create an individual style.



- Look for products in refillable containers or that are available in refillable packages.
- Use rechargeable batteries where possible - they will last several thousand uses!
- Reuse old jars, boxes and containers for storage.
- Use scrap paper for jotting notes.
- Reuse carrier bags and refuse unnecessary ones.
- Sell or donate things you no longer need.
- Give magazines to friends or donate them to hospitals, homes for the aged or doctors' surgeries once you've read them.
- Save and reuse suitable envelopes and packing materials to send parcels.

Useful links (click to open):

- www.recycling-guide.org.uk
- www.recyclethis.co.uk
- www.greenusesforwaste.co.uk
- www.direct.gov.uk



Section 10:

Art & craft tips

Fabrics

- Reupholster a chair or blanket box etc with fabric to suit the room or your favourite fabric, search shops for off cuts or charity shops for curtain fabric.
- Use any leftover off cuts of your favourite fabric to make cushions to match your sofa.
- An easy and cheap way to give your rooms a new look is to change the colour of the curtains or sofa covers by dyeing them in the washing machine.



Jewellery

- Necklaces, earrings and bracelets you no longer wear can be given a new lease of life by reusing the beads and chains in new jewellery, or to jazz up an old cushion, scarf or top.

Paper Crafts

- Leftover paint can be used for decorating furniture, toys and playrooms with a mural or stencils.
- Old CD's and DVD's can be used to create an imaginative partition or curtain in a room. Drill four holes in the edges and attach the CD's and DVD's with wire to form a sheet that you can hang from the ceiling.



Children's Activities

To keep children entertained why not get them doing some crafts:

- Decorate an old shoe box with a collage of images cut out of their favourite magazine or comic.
- Save your empty crisp or chocolate bar wrappers as these can be turned into funky key rings, broaches or pendants. Clean the foil packets and place them in the oven and watch them shrink into miniatures. These also make great gifts, perfect for children's party bags.
- Turn scraps of coloured paper into beautiful paper lanterns which are great to use to decorate a children's playroom, especially if the children made them themselves!
- A brilliant way to decorate a child's room or to create a party atmosphere is to create bright and fun bunting from triangle scraps of leftover fabric sewn on some ribbon or string.
- Make bright table placemats or coasters from weaving ribbons, fabrics or plastic wrapping. Or twist strips of newspaper and curl them into a flat spiral which will make a fun and colourful coaster.



- Leftover inches of ribbon or fabric can be used to make children's hair ties or bows. If they are scraps from clothes you have handmade they will match the outfit.
- Jam jars painted with glass paints can become pen pots or nightlights.

Gardening

- Old wellies, buckets or baskets can be used as planters and create a novel look to your garden.
- Yogurt pots are great for growing seedlings.
- Plastic bottles can be used as mini cloches or greenhouses to protect young plants.
- Old CD's can be hung over your crops, as the reflective surfaces scare birds away.
- Plastic milk cartons can be used as herb window pots or flower pots. Cut off the top half of the carton, and fill the bottom part with soil/compost.

Useful links (click to open):

- www.activityvillage.co.uk
- www.allfreecrafts.com
- www.ecofriendlykids.co.uk

Section 11:

Reuse credits

Reuse credits are paid for household waste that would normally have been sent to landfill.

Furniture, shoes, handbags, books and electrical goods are all eligible for reuse credits as long as you can collect them in sufficient quantities. A charity shop cannot claim credit for items which are going to be sold in the shop; claims are only for materials that are reused in the community. Materials which would have been thrown away by businesses and industry are not eligible.

Can I claim reuse credits?

Any not for profit, voluntary or community group can claim reuse credits if they collect items from households that are then reused rather than taken to landfill. Individuals cannot claim for reuse credits.

Examples of organisations that claim reuse credits are community groups, scout groups, church groups, charities and schools.

Is my group eligible?

As long as your group collects household waste to be reused and meets the requirements set out in the Recycling & Reuse Credits Information Pack you can apply to be registered on the scheme.

Anything that your group collects must be reused.

Furniture, shoes, handbags, books, electrical goods and bikes are all eligible.

How much money can we claim?

Reuse credits are paid by the tonne. The Furniture Reuse Network publish an Average Weights Guide and these are then used to determine tonnage. The rate varies and you should contact the Recycling Team on 0116 305 7288 for up to date information.

The materials must be collected from within Leicestershire. Leicestershire County Council will need to know which District the materials are collected from. If you are collecting from more than one District you will need to keep separate records for each.

Office, trade and commercial waste is not included within the scheme.

Visit www.leics.gov.uk/waste or call the Recycling Team on 0116 305 7288 to register.



Section 12:

Recycling and household waste sites



Barwell

Stapleton Lane,
Barwell,
Leicestershire
LE9 8HE

Bottesford

Normanton Lane,
Bottesford,
Leicestershire
NG13 0EL

Coalville

Ashby Road,
Coalville,
Leicestershire
LE67 3LA

Kibworth

Harborough Road (A6),
Kibworth,
Leicestershire
LE8 ORB

Loughborough

Railway Terrace,
Loughborough,
Leicestershire
LE11 1HW

Lount

Nottingham Road (A453),
Lount,
Leicestershire
LE65 1SD

Lutterworth

Moorbarns Lane,
Lutterworth,
Leicestershire
LE17 4QJ

Market Harborough

Riverside Industrial Park,
Market Harborough,
Leicestershire
LE16 7PT

Melton Mowbray

Lake Terrace,
Melton Mowbray,
Leicestershire
LE13 0BZ

Mountsorrel

Granite Way,
Mountsorrel,
Leicestershire
LE12 7TZ

Oadby

Wigston Road,
Oadby,
Leicestershire
LE2 5JE

Shepshed

Hathern Road,
Shepshed,
Leicestershire
LE12 9RP

Somerby

Knossington Road,
Somerby,
Leicestershire
LE14 2QP

Whetstone

Enderby Road,
Whetstone,
Leicestershire
LE8 6JL

All sites are open seven days a week, 8am – 8pm (April to October) and 8am to 6pm (November to March). Vehicles must be off-site by closing time.

All sites are closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day.



EWC Auctions

Many items and materials taken to all of the Recycling and Household Waste Sites (excluding Whetstone) that are in a reusable condition are sent to the EWC reuse auction.

The auction is held in Lutterworth on Thursday evenings with the sale starting at 5pm. Items can be viewed from 12pm onwards on the day of the auction.

Where are the auctions held?

EWC Auctions,
Unit A,
Vedonis Works,
Leicester Road,
Lutterworth ,
LE17 4LG

Telephone: 01509 260338

Who are EWC?

EWC (Environmental Waste Controls) operates 13 Recycling and Household Waste Sites on behalf of Leicestershire County Council. Their staff ensure maximum recycling and reuse by directing the public and sorting through the materials thrown away. Any reusable items recovered are cleaned and sold through auctions organised by EWC.



Section 13:

Reuse wedding

Reuse Wedding Checklist

Lucy, a member of the Leicestershire Greene family and her fiancé Will, have decided to tie the knot. They have done a lot of research on how they can reduce the waste created during their wedding day and in many cases reduce costs without compromising on taste and elegance.

They would like to share this information so Leicestershire residents can use some or all of these ideas on their wedding day.

We all know that your wedding day is unique and special and most importantly good fun. Planning your wedding using some of these ideas can make your wedding one to remember and even more unique.

Follow this link to our wedding checklist. This list may get you thinking about some of your own original ideas. Click to see the Reuse Wedding Checklist

Follow our facebook page and add some of your ideas and comment on some of our tips.

www.facebook.com/leicestershiregreenefamily

Here are some links to examples of web pages we have found that give some excellent ideas on how you can make your wedding day that little bit extra special and memorable without being at the expense of the environment.

- www.greenunion.co.uk/weddings/2006/06/planning.html
- www.eco-friendlyweddings.co.uk/
- www.thenaturalweddingcompany.co.uk/



If you require this information in an alternative version such as large print, Braille, tape or help in understanding it in your language, telephone 0116 305 7005 or e-mail wasteprevention@leics.gov.uk

Disclaimer

The companies and websites featured in this guide are not endorsed by Leicestershire County Council, Leicestershire Waste Partnership or its members; they are listed as a guide only. Please note that these are not exhaustive lists and other companies and organisations provide these services.

