

# Thrift Store Donations



All items available for purchase at Rockford Thrift Store were previously owned by someone who donated them to us. For more information about donating to Thrift Store, we offer the following Frequently Asked Questions.

## **How do I donate to Thrift Store?**

Donations are accepted at the rear of the store. There is a covered drive-thru for your convenience. You can enter the drive-thru from the 20<sup>th</sup> Street side of the parking lot, and a donations attendant will be there to assist you.

## **When can I donate to Thrift Store?**

We accept donations from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday at the store. Please do not leave donations on the curb after hours. They are regularly vandalized before we arrive the next morning.

## **What can I donate to Thrift Store?**

We accept any items we can resell in the store. Our biggest departments are clothing and household goods. We also have furniture, collectibles and antiques, sporting goods and fitness equipment, linens, jewelry and accessories, books and media, seasonal items, and a “man cave.” There are a variety of things we are unable to accept because we cannot resell them (see next page).

## **Why donate to Thrift Store?**

All proceeds from sales at the Thrift Store benefit the ongoing programs of Rockford Rescue Mission. In addition to serving over 420 meals daily to anyone in need, the Mission has short-term crisis and long-term Life Recovery Programs for both men and women, as well as several community works programs to help people get back on their feet. Because of this, your donation is tax-deductible. Beyond the good cause you’re supporting, donating to Thrift Store helps you get things out of your home that you no longer want or need, while helping keep those things out of the landfill. And folks who shop at Thrift store are often able to get things they would not be able to find or afford otherwise.

## **Tax-Deductible? What does that mean?**

Gifts-in-kind given to Thrift Store are considered charitable donations. We have a form for your use to keep for your tax records. We will usually ask you if you want a receipt, and feel free to ask us for one if you need it.

## **I’m in a rush. When should I donate?**

The donations door tends to be busiest on Monday mornings and on Saturday before closing. If you’d like to avoid a line, it’s best to avoid those times. The lunch hour tends to be busier as well. Summer is also busier than winter, so feel free to move your spring cleaning up to February!

## **I heard you have pickup service. How do I set that up?**

We have a truck that can pick up larger donations that you are not able to bring to the store (usually larger pieces of furniture). Pickup appointments are typically between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday through Friday, as that is when we have the necessary help. We are usually a few weeks out in our scheduling, so please give us a call at the store, 815-316-0607, as soon as you know when you would like something picked up so we can have the best opportunity to accommodate your schedule.

# Items We Cannot Accept



Because the proceeds from sales at Thrift Store support Rockford Rescue Mission, we have an obligation to reject items that we can't sell. Every dollar we have to spend on disposing of unsellable items is a dollar not spent on meals or programs for Rockford Rescue Mission.

The main reasons we cannot accept items at Thrift Store are

1) Relevant regulations 2) Insurance liability and 3) No retail value.

Here are some of the most common items people bring to the store that we are unable to accept. While not a complete list, we hope it's helpful in planning your donation.

## Thrift Store CANNOT accept:

- Anything a baby sits or lies down on (cribs, strollers, playpens, etc.). There are too many recalls and expiration dates and we aren't able to know what's safe and what isn't.
- Safety-related equipment like baby/pet gates or life jackets. Again, we are unable to guarantee they're still safe.
- Large, heavy TVs and CRT computer monitors (pre-flat screen). To get rid of those, see this [guidance from Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful](#).
- Printers, unless they come with an install CD-ROM (and no, not a floppy disk).
- Used mattresses or box springs (that's an Illinois law).
- Partially used cans of paint (but we'll take unopened cans). You can take non-latex paint to [Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful](#).
- Flammable liquids. Take those to [Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful](#).
- Dictionaries, encyclopedias or most reference books.
- Used tires.
- Damaged furniture. No rips or stains. We don't have the capacity to repair furniture in our store.
- Wet items. If it's raining, please don't bring your donation in an open pickup truck.
- Perishable food. Please bring to Rockford Rescue Mission's Food Service entrance. Call 815-965-5332.

If you have questions about your donations, please give us a call at 815-316-0607. Thrift Store is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays. We're closed on Sundays.