



Donating Items to Non-profit Agencies

Goals:

- Donate your unneeded items, a.k.a. CRAP (Clutter that Robs Anyone of Pleasure) to those in need and get a tax credit for you.
- Get rid of your clutter, saving the planet feels good, and say no to landfills.

What do I donate?

- Clothing-Donate all clothing, no matter the condition. Many agencies have secondary markets to donate the fabric.
- Toys-Engage your children by encouraging them to donate their old toys to children who are less fortunate. After birthdays and holidays is an ideal time to clean out. Children are more willing to give up old toys if they have new ones to replace them.
- Household items-Should be clean and not broken (if it can't be fixed, send it to the landfill).

Donation Centers:

- Agencies that accept donations are Goodwill, Salvation Army, Hope Rescue Mission, local shelters, thrift stores, etc. There may be other agencies in your area that can be found on YellowPages.com.
- Call the agency or go to their website for a 'wish list' for items that are most needed.
- Some agencies will pick up large items. You will need a receipt for the donation. If they don't give one, write up a receipt have them sign it.
- If you donate items to your church or synagogue, keep the request from the newsletter or bulletin and attach the list of items or receipts to that request for tax purposes. Have church personnel sign it.
- If you take items to a consignment store and they donate your items when they don't sell, you can't use that as a tax deduction.

Tax credit basics (non-profit agencies):

- If you itemize your deductions, you may be eligible to deduct your donations. Consult a tax accountant for details and applications.
- File form 8283-Noncash Charitable Contributions with your 1040.
- Estimate the fair market value of the items. Use Publication 526-Charitable Contributions and Publication 561-Determining the Value of Donated Property for further information.
- Go to www.salvationarmyusa.org, www.goodwill.org, or Turbo Tax for valuation ranges of donated goods.
- Go to IRS website at www.irs.gov for additional information.

2016