

Guidelines to safe donations — 2020

In collaboration with Lockton Affinity



Habitat ReStore/Store donations

Donations are the lifeblood of every Habitat ReStore and Habitat Store. When receiving donations, it is imperative to have a clear understanding what can be safely or legally taken for resale. Certain donations can pose health and safety risks. In addition to hazardous items, it is important to be aware of items that may be illegal to resell or that may pose a risk to Habitat's reputation.

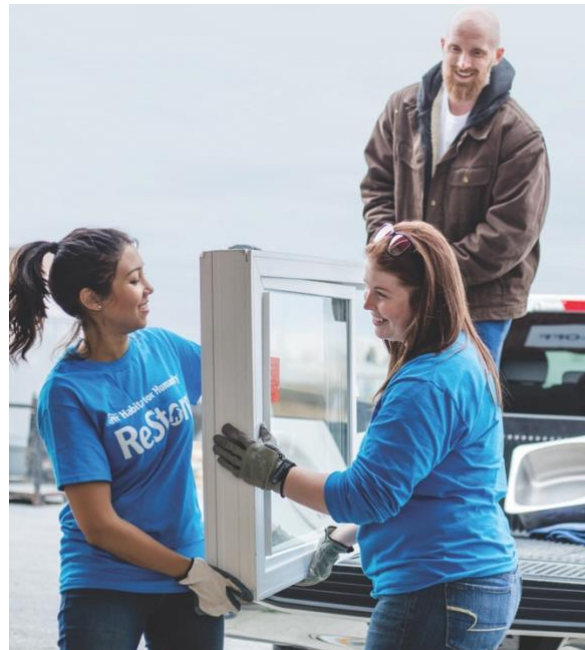
Without a clear understanding of regulations and potential legal implications, affiliates may unknowingly place themselves in a tenuous position. Together with Lockton Affinity, Habitat for Humanity International ReStore Safety has compiled the following guidance document. This document addresses only product classifications, but links to additional information are provided.

When researching regulations and best practices, there are distinctive differences between “must” and “should”:

- **Must** — Addressed by a federal or state regulation and cannot be resold because of hazardous properties.
- **Should** — It is a best practice not to accept or resell these items because of their inherent risk.

Unacceptable donations can be classified into the following categories:

- Regulated — federal, state and local.
- Recalled products.
- Inherent risk or not recommended for resale by Habitat for Humanity International.



Donation disposal tools

Just as donations are an integral part of any Habitat ReStore, so is the conundrum of disposing of unwanted or unsellable items. Hazardous or regulated items often unintentionally make their way into the donation centers via the sidewalk nighttime drop or are unknowingly accepted by staff members or volunteers.

The Environmental Protection Agency website has tools to help Habitat ReStore leaders safely dispose of the following:

- Electronics — [Electronics disposal](#)
- Pesticides — [Safe pesticide disposal](#)
- Lightbulbs (mercury) — [Bulbs containing mercury](#)
- Household hazardous waste (paints, cleaners, oils, batteries) — [Household waste](#)
- Recalled items — [Consumer Product Safety Commission recalls](#)
- Appliances — [Responsible appliance disposal](#)
- Reduce, reuse, recycle — General EPA information — [EPA Recycle](#)

[Recycle Nation](#) is a green-living-focused website and app that locates recycling companies by item and ZIP code.

[Earth 911](#) allows users to input an item and ZIP code to search for assistance with disposal.

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission — Recalled items

The following information is provided as a tool to assist the Habitat ReStore/Store and might not contain the latest version of recalls or products newly regulated by the [CPSC](#). **HFHI strongly encourages each Habitat affiliate to [subscribe to the CPSC email program](#), which automatically sends email when a new recall is announced.**

Selling recalled items may expose the reseller to liability.

Recalls are usually applied to a specific model or serial number and not necessarily an entire class of products (e.g., a single ceiling fan subclass and not the entire classification of ceiling fans). When donations are accepted, it is recommended to check the donated items against product recalls. Recalls are also posted as they are announced on the [ReStore Safety Yammer](#) landing page (these postings may not be exhaustive of all stated recalls).

The Consumer Product Safety Commission administers six different statutes passed by Congress that may affect donations:

- Consumer Product Safety Act ([CPSA](#))
- Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act ([CPSIA](#))
- Federal Hazardous Substances Act ([FHSA](#))
- Flammable Fabrics Act ([FFA](#))
- Poison Prevention Packaging Act ([PPPA](#))
- Refrigerator Safety Act ([RSA](#))

Unacceptable donations 2020

REGULATED ITEMS

The following chart contains information regarding unacceptable donations, including any applicable links to federal regulations.

Type of item	Unacceptable items <i>(may not be exhaustive)</i>	Additional information
Items intended for use by children under the age of 12.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cribs • Bassinets and cradles • Safety gates and enclosures • Play pens • Infant swings • Highchairs • Toddler beds • Strollers • Toy chests • Helmets • Beanbag chairs 	Guidance on infant and toddler products, as defined by the Consumer Product Safety Commission , applies to general use products intended for children 12 or younger. Selling an item, even as “decorative,” still falls under the CPSC guidelines and is subject to regulations.
Items containing lead paint.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toys • Costume jewelry • Used lead paint • Lead-painted furniture • Other articles that are labeled “lead-containing” paint or that contain the wording “warning” or “contains lead — dried film of this paint may be harmful if eaten or chewed.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPA — Lead Paint Regulations • CFR Part 1303 — Lead-containing paint • CPSC children's products — lead

Type of item	Unacceptable items (may not be exhaustive)	Additional information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning chemicals • Pesticides • Herbicides • Fungicides • Insecticides 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospital disinfectants. • Industrial chemicals. • Some swimming pool chemicals. • Kitchen, laundry and bath disinfectants and sanitizers or other products that kill or control mold or mildew. • Cockroach sprays and baits. • Flea and tick sprays, powders, collars and wristbands. • Lawn and garden products that kill weeds, insects, plant diseases, rodents and other animals. • Insect control chalk (aka Chinese chalk). • Insect repellents. • Plant protection chemicals that kill weeds, insects or plant diseases. 	<p>Retailers need to understand and follow all laws that impact them in the sale of pesticides.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sale of restricted-use pesticides has special legal requirements. • The sale of pesticides whose registration has been cancelled is illegal. • The sale of illegal or counterfeit pesticides is never allowed. Retailers must be diligent in making sure all pesticide products they sell have the required EPA labels. <p>For more, read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retail Safety Education — Pesticides • EPA — Pesticides <p>Because of the hazardous nature of these chemicals, specific DOT regulations apply if transporting them on public roads, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper shipping manifests, including SDS forms. • Vehicle placarding.
Unlabeled containers of liquid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bottles with the cap missing. • Used pump sprayers. • Any leaking containers. 	<p>OSHA regulations prevent unlabeled or unidentified chemicals from being in the workplace.</p>
Corded window blinds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any corded window blinds. 	<p>Because of the strangulation hazard for children, corded blinds have been removed from the market and should not be resold in the Habitat ReStore. For more info, see the Window Covering Safety Council.</p>
Mattresses and box springs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used mattresses and box springs. • Futon mattresses. • Hideaway beds. • Sleeper sofas. 	<p>Federal or state regulations may apply to individual state resale requirements for cleaning, labeling and repackaging.</p>
Bootleg media of any kind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DVDs. • CDs. • VHS. 	<p>Only original movies or CDs should be taken in for donation. Any that have been copied or downloaded cannot be sold to avoid violation of federal copyright/licensing laws.</p>
Potable water fittings/fixtures made before 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faucets, ice makers (endpoint devices). • Federal regulations may differ from state regulations, especially in California, Vermont, Maryland and Louisiana. 	<p>As of Jan. 4, 2014, newly purchased and installed plumbing pipes, pipe fittings, plumbing fixtures, solder and flux used for transportation of drinking water must be lead-free. All products that comply will be marked with the NS-61 stamp or “lead free.” Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act – 2014</p>
Fire-rated doors containing asbestos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire-rated doors containing asbestos. 	<p>Doors might not contain a label alerting the presence of asbestos, nor does the age of the door indicate asbestos.</p>

Type of item	Unacceptable items (may not be exhaustive)	Additional information
Toilets not rated "low-flow"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toilets labeled as having greater than 1.6-gallon tanks. 	Toilets must meet the 1992 water conservation standard of 1.6-gallon or smaller tanks to be sold. Wastewater Technology Fact Sheet — Energy Policy Act 1992
Lightbulbs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incandescent (new regulations). Fluorescent. Halogen. Sodium. CFL (mercury exposure). 	New regulations are in place for incandescent lightbulbs (California, Nevada, Vermont and Washington), and the bulbs should not be resold. Check your state's guidelines for potential restrictions. Fluorescent and CFL bulbs contain mercury and should not be resold because of potential mercury exposure.
Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laptops. Desktops. Jump drives. 	U.S. privacy and copyright laws may apply if a hard drive has not been cleared of all software.

ITEMS POSING REPUTATIONAL RISK

Habitat for Humanity International recommends against resale of certain types of donated items because of an inherent risk to the Habitat brand or to the Habitat ReStore's staff, volunteers or customers.

Items posing reputational risk	Unacceptable items (may not be exhaustive)	Additional information
Alcohol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alcohol of any type. 	State licensing requirements apply.
Weapons and/or powder-actuated items, including fireworks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guns. Ammunition (including blanks). Bullet-making kits. Swords. Knives. Machetes. Pocketknives. Brass knuckles. 	
Adult-themed media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DVDs or VHS. Books. Magazines. Posters. 	
Offensive or racially inappropriate items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flags, etc. Literature. 	Any items considered potentially offensive should not be sold.
Expired building materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check the expiration date of donations before accepting. 	Building materials beyond their expiration date, affecting efficacy.
Vehicles/trailers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cars. Boats. Trailers. RVs. 	State licensing requirements apply. Consider using Habitat's Cars for Homes program .

ITEMS POSING INHERENT RISK

Habitat for Humanity International recommends against reselling certain types of donated items because of the inherent risk to the Habitat brand or to the Habitat ReStore’s staff, volunteers or customers.

Items posing inherent risk	Unacceptable items (may not be exhaustive)	Additional information
Gas appliances/ gas lines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stoves. • Dryers. • Water heaters. • Furnaces. • Heaters. • Used gas lines. 	Appliances should be inspected/tested by a certified technician if they are to be sold.
Halogen (torchiere) lamps		<p>CPSC advises you to destroy any halogen lamp if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no wire or glass guard over the glass bulb shield in the bowl at the top of the lamp. The top of the guard should be 3 inches from the glass bulb shield. • The bulb wattage for the tubular halogen light bulb is more than 300 watts, even if the original label on the lamp says that a 500-watt bulb can be used. • The plug is not polarized (with one blade wider than the other). • The cord has mechanical damage. • There are signs of corrosion or bent or loose parts. Any of these may indicate a malfunctioning or potentially hazardous lamp.
Paint (used)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paint cans that are not full. • Oil-based paints. • Paints containing lead. 	To ensure efficacy of the product, the cans should be full and not mixed with other products.
Fire alarms/fire suppression products (used)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smoke detectors. • Carbon monoxide detectors. • Fire extinguishers. 	Potential for failure.
Ladders (used)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ladders. • Stepladders. • Extension ladders. 	All labels must be present and legible per OSHA. No defects may be present.
Medical equipment (used)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crutches. • Wheelchairs. • Walkers. • Canes. • Medical monitors, etc. 	
Toilet seats (used)		Potential exposure to bodily fluids.
Flammable gases	MAPP, butane, propane, torch fuel, lamp oil, etc.	
Household chemicals	Highly flammable, caustic or toxic chemicals.	<p>The EPA considers leftover household products such as paints, cleaners, oils and batteries to require special handling and care.</p> <p><u>Household Hazardous Waste</u></p>

Items posing inherent risk	Unacceptable items (may not be exhaustive)	Additional information
Unframed glass	Unframed mirrors, glass tabletops, unframed glass for windows, picture frames, etc.	
Broken or faulty electronics	Lamps, kitchen appliances, etc.	All safety features should be present for resale.
Power tools	Tools with missing guards, frayed cords or any other absent safety feature.	
Oversized or heavy items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entertainment centers. • Cast iron sinks/tubs. • Pianos. • Granite slabs. • Full rolls of carpet. 	Because of their weight, all items should be handled with extra care and proper equipment to avoid lifting injuries if accepted for donation.
Used car parts	Any part integral to the safe operation of a vehicle.	
Rolled flashing		Extreme sharpness of product requires additional attention and PPE for handling.
Helmets/hard hats (used)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike helmets. • Decorative helmets. • Hard hats. • Protective helmets. 	
Cedar chests	Lane cedar chests.	Ensure lock is not the old self-securing type to avoid children being locked inside.

