

Zine by Red

How to legally acquire free + cheap stuff



If you find yourself with excess clutter, consider giving it away!
Cut it, list it for Free on FB Marketplace, find a friend, acquaintance, neighbor who might need it!

The town is your shop, and people are literally giving stuff away.
Now get out there! Don't pay hundreds for a new bookshelf when you can practically furnish a house for the same price.

Why Athens?

As a college town, Athens is a great place to scavenge and thrift. When the students move out each spring, tons of useable items are left behind and thrown away.

It's good and fun to get free stuff while decreasing waste that would go to the landfill. Most of it you won't even have to go dumpster-diving for, just look on the curbs.

Trash crews are constantly circling town, so if you want something, you should grab it - it might not be there for much longer esp if you wait overnight. It is also good to wear gloves/other PPE, some things might be dirty or just mixed with trash.

How to move furniture

I recommend a dolly + bungee cords. Menards has decent folding dollies that can easily fit in a car trunk.

Remember you can move and fold down car seats, lower windows, and bungee trunks shut to move larger furniture that won't fit cleanly.

Menards has a rentable pickup truck, great for moving furniture. If you return it within an hour it only costs ~\$20. Not recommended for longer scavenging sessions.



Types of items to take

Ideal - Wood, metal, & plastic furniture in good or repairable condition. Also books, small appliances, decorations, clothes - think anything that wouldn't be hard to donate/dispose if it's not worth keeping.

Avoid - couches curbed on party streets, unknown mattresses, most TVs (likely broken if curbed).

Final exams usually start the last week of April, and students start leaving then, both on and off campus. Many people will have yard sales or just curb furniture. If you have a car, driving around the off-campus student rentals between Tuesday and Thursday of finals week can be very rewarding. The dorms have outdoor collection bins that you're technically not allowed to take from.

OU? Oh Yeah!

OU Moveout

Usually held in early May, the Fairgrounds on W Union are used to distribute many of the things left behind by OU students. In past years there been bags of nonperishable food, and large selections of clothes and furniture, all free. *WOW! That's a lot of free stuff*

Move-OUt Giveback Day

- ReStore - Good prices and quality furniture. Some credit cards (at least Chase) will give extra value for paying statement with rewards points since it's a charity.
- UpCycle - clothes, furniture, appliances, media, a Maker Space, classes, and a FREE TOOL LIBRARY. Love it!
- They also have free medical equipment at Ridges Building 9. Weird hours, check upon request at <https://ruralaction.org/our-work/zero-waste/medical-donation-program/>
- NEW-TO-You - similar stock to UpCycle
- OU Surplus - Open to anyone, they have furniture, electronics, & equipment. Stores is at Stewart, OH. Check it out!
<https://www.ohio.edu/moving-surplus/>
- Federal Valley Resource Center - thrift store out in Stewart, OH. Check it out!
<https://www.ohio.edu/moving-surplus/>
- Goodwill - despite being a household name, is overpriced & remove their listing rooms. Do not recommend if you have other options.
- Facebook Marketplace - great if you're looking for something specific. Beware of scammers, do in-person exchanges.