

# Do It Green!

MINNESOTA



## SWAPPING MADE EASY!

*A guide to planning and hosting swaps*

### WHAT IS SWAPPING?

Swapping is when a group of people comes together to exchange items with each other for free. Swaps are the events at which swapping occurs.

### WHY SWAP?

Swapping is a great way to eliminate waste and engage in reuse. Instead of throwing away items that you no longer want, you give them to someone who does want them, and instead of purchasing brand new items, you can reuse items you receive from others. Swapping can also be a way to provide items to people who cannot afford to purchase them, and it is a wonderful way to meet new people and build a sense of community.

### WHAT CAN YOU SWAP?

There are many items that are easy to swap. You can have a swap that includes just one kind of item, like clothes, or you can include several different types of things. Here is a list of commonly swapped items:

- ★ Clothes
- ★ Books
- ★ Seeds and Plants
- ★ Games and Toys
- ★ Household Goods (utensils, towels, etc.)
- ★ Fabric and Sewing Notions
- ★ Art Materials
- ★ Food
- ★ Music and DVDs
- ★ Tools

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## TIPS FOR HOLDING A SWAP

- ★ Hold a swap with an existing group, such as a workplace, church, school, or club.
- ★ Make sure attendees know what items are acceptable for your swap.
- ★ Find a space that is large enough for the number of people you want to attend, as well as all the items being swapped. If you are expecting a large swap, consider holding it at a church, school, or community center.
- ★ Make sure to have plenty of tables to hold swap items, as well as chairs for attendees who might need to rest. Other items, like mirrors at clothing swaps or scales to measure the weight of swapped goods are also useful.
- ★ Advertise your swap! Use email, websites, notice boards, and word of mouth to tell people about an upcoming swap.
- ★ Have plenty of signage for the event, both to lead people to the swap and to help them locate where to place or find items.
- ★ Have several volunteers on hand to help set up and take down the swap, as well as to greet attendees and advise them on swap procedures.
- ★ Make your swaps educational. For instance, you can have gardening resources available at a seed swap or a demonstration on mending at a clothing swap.
- ★ Make your swaps low or zero waste! Ensure that you have clearly labeled recycling bins, and encourage people to bring reusable bags or boxes to carry swap items. Save signage and other swap materials for use at your next event. City and county resources are often available to help make events low waste.
- ★ Donate leftover swap items to charity.
- ★ Have your swap be as accessible as possible to as many people as possible. Consider multilingual signage, ease of reaching the site via public transit, and accessibility to people with disabilities.

Visit [WWW.DOITGREEN.ORG](http://WWW.DOITGREEN.ORG) for more green living resources.