

Dear Recycle Lady



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I have another helpful hint as to how the Easter Bunny can reuse some of his cardboard egg cartons. They are great way to start seeds early. Fill the individual cups in the cardboard egg cartons with potting soil and add seeds. When the seeds are ready to be planted, cut out the individual cups and place cups with seeds in the ground. The cardboard cups will decompose, and the plants can grow undisturbed. Gardener

**Dear Gardener,**

**Thanks for the information on starting seeds early in the spring. Plants can be started earlier, and you continue helping the environment. I'm not sure how the Easter Bunny will use this hint, but other readers may find it very helpful.**

Dear Recycle Lady,

It's spring cleaning time and I have been cleaning out closets. Is there anything that can be done with old, worn clothing and other items? I don't want to throw these clothes in the trash, but fear donating them to a charity like Goodwill would be inappropriate, since no one would want threadbare T-shirts or torn jeans. Cleaning Out Closets

**Dear Cleaning Out Closets,**

Here's some good news for everyone who is cleaning out closets or have clothes they don't know what to do with. Goodwill will accept all sorts of clothing, including those that you think are too worn or damaged to donate. Stains, tears, missing buttons or holes do not matter. Just be sure clothing, usable or not, is clean and doesn't smell. They will give you a tax deduction receipt for clothing in good condition. However, no receipts for damaged clothing because it's not in the "good condition" required by the IRS. Goodwill sorts all clothing donations. If saleable, they are displayed in the sales room. Cotton items are sometimes purchased by quilters or by crafters and some may be used for cleaning rags. If Goodwill can't sell items in their area, they sell them to a textile recycler who will find a use for them. SMART estimates that only 15% of all cloth items are being recycled or reused, which means a lot of old clothing and cloth items – an estimated 11.1 million tons – end up in our landfills every year. What is unusable clothing to us may be sent to developing countries where they are repurposed to make clothing or other items. A [2005 study](#) by [Oxfam](#), an international confederation of organizations that fight poverty, explored the impacts of the secondhand clothing industry on West African economies, and among their findings was the fact that the livelihoods of many people depend on this industry. So, gather up all that old, damaged, out of date clothing that is taking up space in your closets and drawers and take it to Goodwill located in the Red Oaks Shopping Center next door to Rite Aide off 219 South in Fairlea.

Dear Readers,

The Recycle Center is currently expanding. A new building is under construction on the backside of the recycle bin area for use only by commercial vehicles bringing in large loads of recyclable materials. The area is very tight, muddy, full of potholes, workers, tools, equipment and materials. With the exception of the commercial vehicles that must unload in the area, we request that recyclers enter the road on the left side of the office building and remain in the paved area where the recycling bins are. Please, please do not drive around back. It is hazardous to both our workers and your vehicle. When construction is complete, we will give tours of the area during our open house and tell you all about it.

**Have questions about recycling, or interesting information about recycling? Send questions or requests to [recyclelady@greenbrier-swa.com](mailto:recyclelady@greenbrier-swa.com). Dear Recycle Lady is sponsored jointly by the Greenbrier Recycling Center and Greenworks Recycling.**