



The Scrap Exchange

548 Foster Street

Durham, NC 27701

Phone: 919-688-6960 Fax: 919-688-2792

www.scrapexchange.org

Materials in Your Neighborhood

Most businesses and even residents have a steady stream of reusable materials that they throw away. Collecting these materials can enhance your education and arts programming. If your organization is a nonprofit you can offer donors a tax letter for their donations.

Here is a list to help you locate materials that may be useful to you.

Sign Shops

What: Contact and sticky paper, plexiglass and acrylic.

Characteristics: Vibrant colors, indoor/outdoor material.

Benefits: Peeling the sticky paper develops small motor skills. The sticky paper can be used to make mosaics, cut patterns, support geometry projects, and decorate anything! It can adhere to wood, metal, paper, cardboard.

Frame Shops

What: Frames, frame samples and parts, matteboard, and foam core.

Characteristics: Geometrical shapes, variety of colors and textures.

Benefits: Multipurpose materials to be used in bookmaking, framing, collage, and mobile making.

Printing Companies and Printers

What: Paper, paper, paper! Envelopes, outdated office supplies.

Tip: Ask for the paper left over from recently completed print jobs.

Benefits: Large sheets of paper will be available. Bookmaking, collage, printing, painting, drawing, sculpture, and construction.

Textile Mills and Garment Manufacturers

What: Fabric, cardboard cones, plastic tubes, buttons, trims, ribbons, yarn.

Characteristics: Variety of colors, shapes, textures, for decoration, painting, collage, soft sculpture, sewing.

Benefits: Cones/tubes can be used for sculpture, musical instruments, fabric for costumes and collage.



The Scrap Exchange

548 Foster Street

Durham, NC 27701

Phone: 919-688-6960 Fax: 919-688-2792

www.scrapexchange.org

Cabinet Makers and Furniture Designers

What: Scrap wood, hardware.

Characteristics: Shapes and sizes vary along with thickness and kinds of wood.

Benefits: Toy making, bases for sculpture, flat material for painting and two-dimensional projects. ***Coffee Roasters***

What: Burlap sacks.

Characteristics: Strong material, porous, natural color, easily dyed, images/words on bags.

Benefits: Costuming, era-specific props, can be shredded for maiché, or stretched for canvas.

Hardware Stores, Home & Garden Stores, and Other Retail Stores

What: Leftover paint, knobs, sample books of tiles and carpet, planting pots, mannequins, display units, signage, cardboard, foam inserts, plastic crates.

Characteristics: Wide range of materials of various textures, colors and sizes.

Benefits: Can be used for storage, organizing, sculpture, collage, large scale murals or outdoor constructions.

Ice Cream Shops

What: Plastic buckets with lids, wooden spoons.

Characteristics: Sturdy containers for use as musical instruments or as storage units.

Benefits: Drums, organizing materials, science projects.

Film Processing Stores

What: Film canisters with lids, casings from disposable cameras.

Characteristics: Large volumes of similar items for repeat projects.

Benefits: Musical instruments, storage containers.

Telephone Companies

What: Colored wire, rolls of paper (from billing dept.)

Benefits: Wire armatures, great for holding materials together, weaving. Rolls of paper are newsprint end rolls, manageable sizes.

Dry Cleaners

What: Wire coat hangers

Benefits: Wire armatures, mobiles, and jewelry.