

SECOND LIFE COLLECTIVE

# Collection Guide

What to collect first when the goal is simple: sell the best items, move useful goods into community hands, and keep the heaviest waste streams out of landfills.

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Built for corporate partners, collection drives, warehouse teams, and resale intake.

**PRIORITY 1**

## Office furniture and systems

Fast resale, B2B redistribution, and large-volume landfill diversion.

**PRIORITY 2**

## Commercial kitchen and restaurant equipment

High ticket resale and direct placement into community kitchens, food programs, and small businesses.

**PRIORITY 3**

## Building materials, fixtures, and cabinets

Large landfill impact and strong resale for renovation-ready materials.

**PRIORITY 4**

## Major appliances and HVAC-adjacent equipment

Reliable resale and direct household/community use.

## RESEARCH-BACKED PRIORITY LIST

# Collect what has both resale value and waste-diversion weight.

This is not a legal appraisal schedule. It is an operating guide for what Second Life should say yes to first, based on landfill impact, likely resale demand, usefulness to partner organizations, and how easily a warehouse team can inspect and route the item.

# 01

## Office furniture and systems

HIGHEST PRIORITY

### BEST FOR

Fast resale, B2B redistribution, and large-volume landfill diversion.

### LANDFILL IMPACT

Furniture and furnishings are one of the largest durable-goods categories still landfilled in U.S. municipal waste.

### RESALE POTENTIAL

Strong when items are clean, modern, complete, and easy to stage: task chairs, desks, filing cabinets, conference tables, lounge seating, and modular systems.

### Examples to accept

- ✓ Task chairs
- ✓ Desks
- ✓ Conference tables
- ✓ Filing cabinets
- ✓ Lounge seating
- ✓ Cubicle systems with hardware

### Condition rules

- ✓ Structurally sound
- ✓ Clean fabric or wipeable surfaces
- ✓ No heavy odor, mold, pest evidence, or missing hardware

### BEST ROUTE

Sell the best pieces through neighborhood resale; move matched sets to schools, co-ops, training rooms, and partner nonprofits.

# 02

## Commercial kitchen and restaurant equipment

HIGHEST PRIORITY

### BEST FOR

High ticket resale and direct placement into community kitchens, food programs, and small businesses.

### LANDFILL IMPACT

Heavy metal equipment is expensive to dispose of and often still useful after a restaurant remodel or closure.

### RESALE POTENTIAL

Very strong when working, cleanable, and documented. Refrigeration, stainless prep tables, sinks, racks, and smallwares move well.

### Examples to accept

- ✓ Reach-in refrigeration
- ✓ Prep tables
- ✓ Shelving
- ✓ Smallwares
- ✓ Freezers
- ✓ Sinks
- ✓ Ovens
- ✓ Dish racks

### Condition rules

- ✓ Working or repairable
- ✓ No grease saturation
- ✓ No missing safety-critical parts
- ✓ Model and electrical/gas specs visible

### BEST ROUTE

Test and sell higher-value equipment; reserve practical pieces for food pantries, training kitchens, garden produce processing, and partner cafes.

# 03

## Building materials, fixtures, and cabinets

HIGHEST PRIORITY

### BEST FOR

Large landfill impact and strong resale for renovation-ready materials.

### LANDFILL IMPACT

Construction and demolition debris is generated at far larger tonnage than ordinary household trash, so clean reuse beats disposal.

### RESALE POTENTIAL

Strong for complete cabinet sets, doors, windows, lighting, flooring, plumbing fixtures, and unopened surplus materials.

### Examples to accept

- ✓ Cabinet sets
- ✓ Windows
- ✓ Flooring boxes
- ✓ Hardware
- ✓ Doors
- ✓ Lighting
- ✓ Plumbing fixtures
- ✓ Dimensional lumber

### Condition rules

- ✓ Complete sets preferred
- ✓ No rot, asbestos concern, broken glass, heavy rust, or partial unusable scraps
- ✓ Hardware included when possible

### BEST ROUTE

Sell through resale stores; reserve materials for Eco Building pilots, community garden structures, and partner repair projects.

# 04

## Major appliances and HVAC-adjacent equipment

HIGH PRIORITY

### BEST FOR

Reliable resale and direct household/community use.

### LANDFILL IMPACT

Appliances are durable goods with recoverable metals, but reuse preserves more value than scrap when the unit still works.

### RESALE POTENTIAL

Strong for refrigerators, washers, dryers, stoves, dishwashers, microwaves, window AC units, and dehumidifiers in good working order.

### Examples to accept

- ✓ Refrigerators
- ✓ Dryers
- ✓ Dishwashers
- ✓ Window AC units
- ✓ Washers
- ✓ Ranges
- ✓ Microwaves

### Condition rules

- ✓ Working and clean
- ✓ No refrigerant leaks
- ✓ No missing doors or exposed wiring
- ✓ Manufacture date visible when possible

### BEST ROUTE

Test, clean, and price quickly; hold some units for families, shelters, partner housing projects, and community kitchens.

# 05

## Warehouse, retail, and display fixtures

HIGH PRIORITY

### BEST FOR

Outfitting Second Life stores while creating a resale category other nonprofits often need.

### LANDFILL IMPACT

Fixtures are bulky, metal-heavy, and commonly discarded during retail resets even when they are still usable.

### RESALE POTENTIAL

Strong for pallet racking, gondolas, shelving, glass cases, slatwall, clothing racks, carts, and point-of-sale stands.

### Examples to accept

- ✓ Pallet racking
- ✓ Shelving
- ✓ Slatwall
- ✓ Retail carts
- ✓ Gondolas
- ✓ Glass display cases
- ✓ Clothing racks

### Condition rules

- ✓ Stable and complete
- ✓ No sharp broken glass
- ✓ No missing load-bearing parts
- ✓ Disassembled with hardware labeled

### BEST ROUTE

Use first to outfit SWP resale spaces; sell surplus to startups, makers, schools, churches, and community organizations.

# 06

## Tools, shop equipment, and moving gear

HIGH PRIORITY

### BEST FOR

Supporting every SWP program while producing steady resale revenue.

### LANDFILL IMPACT

Tools extend the useful life of other recovered goods by making repair and refurbishment possible.

### RESALE POTENTIAL

Strong for power tools, hand tools, ladders, dollies, clamps, sanders, sewing machines, workbenches, and tool storage.

### Examples to accept

- ✓ Power tools
- ✓ Ladders
- ✓ Clamps
- ✓ Workbench systems
- ✓ Hand tools
- ✓ Dollies
- ✓ Sanders
- ✓ Tool chests

### Condition rules

- ✓ Working or clearly repairable
- ✓ No recalled safety failures
- ✓ Chargers and batteries included when applicable

### BEST ROUTE

Keep core tools for SWP crews; sell duplicates; dedicate some tool kits to Eco Building, gardens, and repair workshops.

# 07

## IT, electronics, and AV equipment

HIGH PRIORITY

### BEST FOR

High value per pound, partner office setup, and responsible electronics routing.

### LANDFILL IMPACT

Electronics contain valuable metals, plastics, and glass; reuse or certified recycling keeps them out of unsafe disposal channels.

### RESALE POTENTIAL

Strong for monitors, laptops, docks, tablets, conference-room AV, projectors, networking equipment, and audio gear.

### Examples to accept

- ✓ Monitors
- ✓ Docking stations
- ✓ Projectors
- ✓ Switches
- ✓ Laptops
- ✓ Tablets
- ✓ Speakers
- ✓ UPS units

### Condition rules

- ✓ Data-bearing devices can be wiped
- ✓ No swollen batteries
- ✓ No CRT displays
- ✓ Power supplies included when possible

### BEST ROUTE

Secure wipe first; redistribute to learners and partner offices; sell tested equipment; route failures through certified e-waste partners.

# 08

## Vehicles, trailers, and fleet equipment

HIGH PRIORITY

### BEST FOR

Large operating value for SWP and high resale if not needed internally.

### LANDFILL IMPACT

Vehicles are not a typical landfill item, but one donated truck can replace a major cash expense and make material recovery possible.

### RESALE POTENTIAL

Very strong for working vans, box trucks, pickups, trailers, forklifts, pallet jacks, and utility carts.

### Examples to accept

- ✓ Cargo vans
- ✓ Pickup trucks
- ✓ Forklifts
- ✓ Golf carts
- ✓ Box trucks
- ✓ Utility trailers
- ✓ Pallet jacks

### Condition rules

- ✓ Clear title where applicable
- ✓ Safe to operate or honestly repairable
- ✓ Maintenance records preferred

### BEST ROUTE

Keep mission-critical fleet first; sell or trade extra units to fund insurance, fuel, warehouse rent, and repairs.

## Home goods, housewares, books, and classroom supplies

SELECTIVE PRIORITY

### BEST FOR

Affordable community resale and direct support for schools, learners, and families.

### LANDFILL IMPACT

Lower weight per item, but high community usefulness when goods are clean, complete, and easy to price.

### RESALE POTENTIAL

Good for cookware, dishes, lamps, small appliances, books, curriculum kits, storage bins, and quality decor.

### Examples to accept

- ✓ Cookware
- ✓ Small appliances
- ✓ Books
- ✓ Storage bins
- ✓ Dishes
- ✓ Lamps
- ✓ Classroom kits

### Condition rules

- ✓ Clean, complete, and boxed by category
- ✓ No chipped food-contact items
- ✓ No mold, smoke odor, or incomplete sets

### BEST ROUTE

Sell in neighborhood resale; bundle classroom supplies for schools and training programs.

# 10

## Organic material for compost

HIGHEST PRIORITY

### BEST FOR

Landfill methane reduction and direct soil support for Community Gardens.

### LANDFILL IMPACT

Food waste is a major driver of landfill methane; keeping clean organics separate is one of the highest climate-impact routes.

### RESALE POTENTIAL

Not a resale category, but finished compost becomes operating value for gardens, soil builds, workshops, and partner farms.

### Examples to accept

- ✓ Food scraps
- ✓ Brewery grain
- ✓ Yard trimmings
- ✓ Coffee grounds
- ✓ Produce trimmings
- ✓ Certified compostable serviceware

### Condition rules

- ✓ Separated at source
- ✓ Low contamination
- ✓ No glass, plastic, chemicals, meat-heavy loads, or sewage-contaminated material

### BEST ROUTE

Collect from offices, restaurants, coffee shops, breweries, markets, and drives; compost into soil for gardens and agriculture pilots.

## FAST INTAKE RULES

# The truck should not roll for mystery junk.

The strongest collection program is selective enough to protect staff time and generous enough to catch genuinely useful goods before they hit the dumpster.

- ✓ Prioritize working, clean, complete items that one person can understand and price quickly.
- ✓ Take sets over singles: matching chairs, full cabinet runs, complete shelving systems, boxed flooring, bundled hardware.
- ✓ Decline or redirect anything hazardous, moldy, pest-contaminated, recalled, data-sensitive without wipe capacity, or too broken to repair responsibly.
- ✓ For donors, describe condition honestly and photograph the item before pickup so the route is clear before a truck rolls.
- ✓ For tax purposes, provide a receipt describing the goods. Donors determine fair market value using IRS guidance or their own qualified appraisal where required.

## SOURCES USED

# Why these categories rise to the top.

### **EPA Facts and Figures: Durable Goods**

Durable goods data, including furniture, furnishings, appliances, electronics, recycling, and landfill context.

### **EPA Facts and Figures: Construction and Demolition Debris**

C&D debris generation and management context.

### **EPA: Quantifying Methane Emissions from Landfilled Food Waste**

Food waste share of landfilled MSW and landfill methane impact.

### **EPA: Composting**

Benefits of composting food scraps and yard trimmings instead of landfilling them.

### **Habitat for Humanity ReStore: Donate Goods**

Comparable resale/reuse model accepting furniture, appliances, housewares, and building materials.

### **IRS Publication 561**

Fair market value guidance for donated property and household items.

FOR PARTNERS

# Have a move, remodel, closure, or recurring waste stream?

[Start a partnership](#)

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