

101 Things to Throw Away at Church

Kitchen Items

- Extraneous lids without bowls or cups
- Donated items that your church kitchen does not use
- Leftover bowls, pans, etc. after you have tried to find the owner
- Excessive plastic grocery sacks and paper bags
- Migratory coffee mugs
- Forgotten water bottles
- Any type of broken, melted, or rusty kitchenware (cookie sheets, utensils, etc.)
- Dated utensils and appliances -Adios yellow straining spoons!
- Expired food or drinks (look in all the cupboards, pantry, and refrigerator)
- Food and/or drinks that have not been used in a year (if not expired) - goodbye stale croutons, flavorless spices, and old tea bags!
- Taco Bell sauce packets - They're everywhere!!
- Towels or pot holders that look like rags
- Pots and Pans that have extremely scratched Teflon, warped bottoms, etc.
- Worn out scrubbers and sponges
- Dish soap or cleaners that have not been used in the last six months
- Cutting boards that are excessively cut up or have signs of mold (black or dark green marks in the cracks of the boards whether plastic or wooden)
- Unused dishes, cups, utensils, serving trays, etc. - Donate!
- Dull knives
- Extra coffee pots
- Worn out dirty high chairs

Church Office

- Wrinkled paper
- Old phonebooks, catalogs, calendars, and directories
- Broken and unused computers and keyboards
- Outdated computer software and their user manuals
- Past themed pens, pencils, and other office supplies
- Records 8 years old or older
- Nonworking and/or unused telephones
- Copier waste cartridges
- Expired or old order forms not being used for records
- Missionary prayer cards with old or outdated photographs and/or information
- Files of church resources that are no longer of use to you or your ministry
- Old cards, letters, and other memorabilia with no significant worth or meaning
- Any photographs that do not capture church history well. Keep good quality photos of significant events and of people
- Antiquated filing cabinets
- Ministry books no longer being used to help ministry workers in your church

Church Nursery & Sunday School Classrooms

- Broken toys – in nursery and children’s ministries
- Ripped or ruined books – in nursery and children’s classrooms
- Stained blankets – nursery
- Expired snacks – nursery & classrooms
- Any type of item that would pose a safety hazard to infants – look around the nursery and church at floor level
- Sunday School Curriculum worksheets with only one or two copies left
- VHS or DVDs that are no longer being used for ministry
- Abandoned artwork or other projects

Craft Supplies & Storage Closets

- Broken crayons or colored pencils, dried out markers
- Pencils with bad erasers
- Dried pens, chewed on pens, pens without lids, pens, pens, pens
- Dried glue bottles or glue sticks
- Unused or unusable craft miscellaneous – paint, stickers, glitter, foam, etc.
- Games with broken parts or missing pieces
- Gross candy, hard candy, open candy
- Don’t forget hardened bus gum!
- Bulletin board leftovers from months or years’ past
- Posters or illustrated songs needing to be retired
- Party decorations – the broken, bent, and out-of-date stuff
- Puppets who have seen better days
- Decorations from past themed days, VBS’, and seasons that will not be used again within the next 18 months.

Other Stored Items - in other church storage rooms or in outdoor storage

- Chairs missing parts or pieces – don’t forget the metal chairs that are so scratched up or bent nobody wants to sit in them
- Broken and/or outdated church auditorium or foyer decorations
- Outdated floral décor or greener (no more ‘90’s floral décor please)
- Tracts from the ‘80’s, ‘90’s, and ‘00’s that realistically will never be used again
- Sermon tapes (It’s time to transfer to digital!)
- Dried up paint cans and neglected paint brushes
- Church project leftovers – piles of stuff nobody has cleaned up or knows what to do with (even outside!)
- Unsafe or broken sports equipment
- Cardboard boxes
- Extraneous storage bins and organizing containers
- Wooden baskets
- Donated clothes and other items that cannot and will not be used
- Damaged or unused lawn equipment
- Dead vacuum cleaners
- Church camp leftovers - the sleeping bags, pillows, clothes, etc.
- Expired medicines and/or consumed products in First-Aid kits
- Any church vehicles sitting outside - the dinosaur church bus all grown over with weeds and/or the '90's church van hiding at the back of your property

Janitor's Closet

- Empty cleaning bottles
- Cleaners not used in over a year
- Dirty rags
- Scrubbers that are frayed around the edges and/or dirty
- Ruined paper towels or toilet paper
- Nasty or broken buckets
- Mops should be replaced once a year if possible
- Toilet brushes that need replacing
- Crusty toilet plungers
- Brooms with straws falling out, splintering handles, or worn out bristles
- Broken light bulbs
- Frayed extension cords
- Stray screws, nuts, bolts, and tools
- Trashy trash cans
- Sound equipment beyond repair or unusable in your current situation
- Spare cords and wires (double check with the pastor, sound man, and handyman first!)
- Defective projectors - both types, overhead projectors and video projectors
- Old Batteries
- Keyboards and/or old pianos

Miscellaneous

- Worn out baptistery items: towels, baptistery robes
- Those items you're thinking about that did not make it on this list in your church that just need to go... go ahead, throw them away!

Church Foyer and Welcome Area

- All those miscellaneous items abandoned in the Lost and Found
- The stack of Bibles no one claims - it's okay to donate them, really, it is...
- Clean up the same type of items found in the "office" section of the list

Music and Sound Equipment

- Copies of sheet music - most sheet music is under a copyright and should not be reproduced without permission. Churches can get into trouble for copyright infringement for having copied sheet music
- The bookshelf of unfamiliar music (sheet music, old choir books, etc.) no one knows or will ever want to learn to sing again
- CD's of church music
- Unused hymnals

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