

## Shoe Recycling Programs

You have logged hundreds of miles on your running shoes. You have run your marathon and are treating your feet to a brand new pair of shoes. There is no need to throw your shoes in the trash just because your shoes are trashed.

There are a number of ways to give your tired old shoes a chance to live a second life. Here are some suggestions:

- “Go Green” and explore your community to find a local need for your gently used shoes through shelters, churches and thrift stores.
- Ask your local running store if they collect shoes for donation to Soles4Souls or another charitable organization.
- Please, only mail your shoes if you have to, as shipping small numbers of shoes creates a larger carbon footprint.
- If the shoes are to be donated (and not shredded), you can go the extra step and wash the shoes first. Wash in cold water and air dry as the dryer can melt the glue!

### US Shoe Donation Programs

- [The Little Rock Roadrunners Club, AR](#)
- [ARR Running-Shoe Recycling Program, AZ](#)
- [World Shoe Relief, CA](#)
- [Running Wild, IA](#)
- [Northern Cook County Shoe Recycling Program, IL](#)
- [Central Florida Gliders Running Shoe Recycle Program, FL](#)
- [First Christian Church of Jacksonville, FL](#)
- [The Shoe Bank, TX](#)
- [Planet Aid, Inc \(Across the USA\)](#)
- [Finger Lakes RC, NY](#)

### International Shoe Donation Programs

- [Peru Federacion Departamental de Atletismo Cuzco](#)
- [One World Running – Shoes for Africa](#)
- [Shoe Recycle Program Team Barrios, Mexico](#)
- [Shoe 4 Africa](#)
- [Up & Running, United Kingdom](#)
- [Oakengates Shoe Banks, United Kingdom](#)

### Shoe Material Recycling Programs

- [Nike Reuse-A-Shoe / Nike Grind \(California Locations\)](#)
- [Palo Alto Refuse & Recycling Services, CA](#)

***Here are three popular programs. Many of the other collection programs send their shoes to these successful donation/recycling organizations:***

#### Soles4Souls

<http://www.soles4souls.org/>

Drop-off program:

Soles4Souls has partnered with companies to be permanent donation locations. This makes it easy for individuals to donate footwear (both new and used) and distribute to those in need around the world. The team originally operated as [www.katrinashoes.org](http://www.katrinashoes.org).

#### One World Running

<http://oneworldrunning.blogspot.com/2007/05/about-one-world-running.html>

Mail-in program:

A group of runners in Boulder collects, washes, and sends shoes, T-shirts, shorts and athletic equipment to needy athletes and children around the world. The project continues to grow with shoes being sent in from throughout the United States.

#### Reuse-A-Shoe

<http://www.nikereuseashoe.com/>

Recycle program:

Worn-out shoes are ground up and made into running tracks and playgrounds. This program is so successful that their recycling facilities are already working near capacity. Nike is currently working on increasing its athletic shoe recycling abilities.