

Hosting a Clothing Swap

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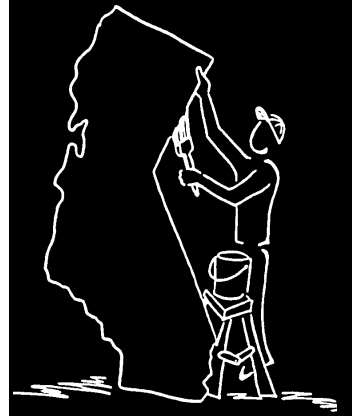
A clothing swap is a fun, ecological way to get some new-to-you clothes and get rid of unwanted stuff. It is also a great waste reduction technique that can divert large amounts of reusable goods from the landfill. This may seem a bit far fetched at first but once you experience a swap first hand you will be convinced this is a great way to promote fun and reuse. Men love them as much as women and so do kids.

How does it work? The information listed below was taken from a invitation, that I have evolved since my first swap more then 15 years ago. It is designed to give invitees an idea of how to prepare their goods, and to prevent a mess at the end of the day.

What about the left overs? I prefer to give the remaining items, some of which are very nice, to charities that give directly to people in need. Sometimes that is not possible and I bring them to a thrift shop that benefits a local charity.

How to Prepare . . . for a Clothing Swap!

- 1 Clean your closets.
- 2 Wash and sort your discards: women's, men's, kid's, & miscellaneous; tops, sweaters, outerwear, shorts, pants, skirts, dresses, lingerie, footwear, fabric, books . . .
- 3 If possible, put professional and dressy clothing on hangers; pack the rest into boxes and bags.
- 4 Dress in loose comfortable clothes and a leotard. Things get lost easily; leave valuables at home.
- 5 At the swap put your items out on the tables in the designated areas.
- 6 Post a sign: "Take the items you want; leave the tables as neat as possible".
- 7 After this wild "free-for-all", pack the remainders into boxes. They will be taken to a charitable organization. Please help clean-up before you leave.
- 8 Feel free to use this model for your own swap!



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