

# Items which cannot be donated to or sold in Helen & Douglas House charity shops

## Appliances & equipment

**Mains or bottled gas appliances** (safety reasons). Includes cookers, fires, lighters and hair-styling tools.

**Oil heaters, petrol or diesel fueled items** (safety reasons).

**Computer hard drives, PCs, Laptops** (legal reasons). Copyright law forbids the resale of computers containing software.

**All types of protective headgear** (safety reasons). Includes cycle helmets, motorbike helmets, riding hats, hard hats.

**Medication of any kind** (safety and legal reasons).

**Cosmetics and scents** (hygiene reasons and undesirability). We can accept new, unused cosmetics, aftershaves and perfumes if they remain sealed in their original packaging.

**Prescription glasses** (well being reasons).

Please donate prescription glasses to local opticians.

**Loose clothes hangers.**

**Candles** (unless brand new with labels)

**Sunbeds or tanning equipment** (Health and Safety)

## Multimedia

**Any goods that infringe the copyright law** (legal reasons). Includes pirate DVDs and counterfeit CDs. These can be recognised by the colour of the disc, hologram labelling or poor packaging.

**Pornographic publications, DVDs and videos** (legal reasons and undesirability). Includes DVDs and videos classified as R18.

**Any DVDs and videos not legally classified by the British Board of Film Classification** (legal reasons and undesirability). Includes DVDs missing classification labels.

Please note, any films or computer games rated 12, 15 or 18 cannot be sold to anyone underage (legal reasons). Over 18 films are kept on high shelves. Each shop keeps a 'refusal register' to notify local Trading Standards of anyone who appears to be under 18 who is refused a purchase.

## Dangerous items

**Firearms and ammunition** (legal reasons and undesirability). Includes starting pistols and other blank-firing weapons and ammunition.

**Weapons and realistic toy weapons** (legal reasons and undesirability).

**Pointed objects that can be used as weapons** (safety and legal reasons). Includes butcher's knives, flick knives, sports knives, swords, daggers and axes. Please note, knives, blades or sharply pointed items will not be sold to under 18s (safety and legal reasons). Includes knives, knife blades, razor blades and articles with a blade or sharp point that can cause injury. Excludes scissors and pairs of compasses.

**Poisonous, toxic and hazardous substances**

**Flammable items such as firelighters and barbeque lighting tools** (safety and legal reasons).

**Solvents and solvent-based products** (legal reasons and undesirability).

## Children's items

**Toys without the CE mark** (safety and legal reasons).

**Children's car seats or booster seats** (safety reasons). Second-hand seats often have no or incomplete fitting instructions. Seats that are not installed correctly or are damaged may not be able to protect a child in an accident.

**Life jackets/inflatables.**

**Used breast pumps, sterilisers or baby monitors** (safety and hygiene reasons). Only acceptable if brand new and they pass portable appliance tests.

**Baby walking frames, door bouncers, baby slings** (safety reasons).

**Child safety gates** (safety reasons).

**Second-hand stair gates** may not come equipped with all the necessary fittings and fixtures. These are essential for ensuring safety.

**Nursery furniture that contains upholstery** (legal reasons). We can accept these if the item complies with The Furniture and Furnishings (Fire Safety) Regulations 1988 and has the relevant label attached, or predates 1950.

**Repainted cots** (safety reasons). Cots that have been repainted may contain lead or other substances that may be harmful if chewed.

## Consumables

**Alcohol** (legal reasons and undesirability).  
**Cigarettes, tobacco and related products** (legal reasons and undesirability). Includes electronic cigarettes, vaporizers and their accessories.

**Drugs** (legal reasons and undesirability). Includes prescription drugs, illegal, recreational or any other form of drugs and drug paraphernalia.

**Foodstuffs** (legal reasons). A Foods Standards Agency licence is needed.

**Animal products-**

**Items made of ivory** (legal reasons). The trade in ivory is banned, except for pre-1900 furniture, wooden items or pianos with ivory inlays or keys and items believed to be 'antique'. An affidavit from an antiques dealer is required to ensure items are sold legally. Items made of bone (legal reasons). Includes items made from animals such as elephants, mammoths, walruses and whales.

**Turtle or tortoiseshell items** (legal reasons).

Applies to items made, in whole or in part, from any part of sea turtles, regardless of the age of the item. Tortoiseshell-patterned items made of plastic or synthetic materials are permitted, but should clearly indicate they are not made of tortoiseshell.

**Items made from endangered species** (legal reasons). Endangered species are listed by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. This applies to both new and second-hand products, but not to antiques.

## Other items we can't sell

**Official items** (undesirability). Includes police, emergency services or government identification, uniforms and vehicle license plates.

**Sex aids or sex toys**, in any condition (undesirability, hygiene reasons).

**Nightwear without flammable warning labels** (safety reasons). Includes children's and adults' nightdresses, pyjamas, dressing gowns and bathrobes.

**Upholstered foam-filled furniture** (legal reasons). We can accept these if the article predates 1950 or complies with The Furniture and Furnishings (Fire Safety) Regulations 1988 and has the relevant label attached.

**Electric Blankets** (Health and Safety)

**Mattresses, pillows and quilts that are not in new, unused, condition** (hygiene reasons).

Alongside these listed goods, each Helen & Douglas shop reserves the right to refuse to take or sell items for other reasons not outlined on this page.

