

How to host a Clothes swap

Clothes swaps are an eco-friendly way to swap clothes you no longer want with other people, giving clothing a new lease of life.

Hosting a Clothes Swap is a great way to recycle, get to know your neighbours and build a real community spirit. They take around 6-8 weeks to organise.



Checklist of things you'll need

- Full length mirrors
- Clothing rails
- Hangers
- Changing area
- Clothing labels
- Decorations
- Refreshments.
- Welcome signs
- Posters and leaflets
- First aid kit
- Bags to take clothes home in
- Marker pens, masking tape or labels are also useful.

Timings

6 - 8 weeks before:

- You can host your event at home or find a space, which is local to you and your community. You can find a list of local community centres at camden.gov.uk/community-centres
- Create a group of people who are interested in volunteering with you to organise the Swap. You could talk about whether you want to have a theme, such as a school uniform, fancy dress or clothes for adults and children.
- Decide how the swap will be run – will clothes be free or will there be a small charge to raise money for charity?

5 weeks before:

- Complete a risk assessment. You can find a simple template on hse.gov.uk
- Choose a donation drop-off point
- Spread awareness of your swap and ask for donations – drop leaflets through doors and into businesses and put up posters in and around your community.
- Remember to specify that the clothes should be clean and in good condition

4 weeks before:

- Start accepting and sorting through the clothing donations
- Meet with your team of volunteers to let them know what their responsibilities will be leading up to the swap and on the day

2 – 3 weeks before:

- Put up posters and drop leaflets in and around your community promoting the event
- Decide on what equipment you need, clothing rails, mirrors, screen, clothes hangers
- Consider also have a seating or coffee/tea area for people to socialise after they have swapped clothes.
- If there will be food at the event, each item must be labelled with a list of ingredients and allergens

1 week before:

- Encourage people to drop off their clothes so that you have time to sort through the items before the event
- Sort through the donations, removing any items that aren't in good condition – don't throw these items away, recycle them. Find out how at nlwa.gov.uk

On the day:

- Brief volunteers
- Set up early on the event day and arrange the clothing using tables and rails
- Set up refreshment area – any food items must be labelled with a list of ingredients and allergens
- Arrange the changing area in a private space with mirrors for people to try on clothes
- Have fun!



Raising money for a good cause?

If your clothes swap is for charity, holding a raffle or selling refreshments is a good way to boost your fundraising.



Make your clothes swap planet-friendly

We all have a part to play to looking after the environment. Recycle any unwanted clothes or donate them to a charity shop – find out what can be recycled at

camden.gov.uk/reuse-and-recycling