

Sorting Instructions

Updated March 2010

Don't wash them!

Donors usually do before donating, and recipients do before wearing. Once the numbers build up,(and they will,) the water and time involved are prohibitive.

Sorting categories

As a general rule, only send a bra if you could look someone in the eye as you handed it over. A few new bras in a box of second hand is generally not a problem.

Nursing bras –These have no underwires, and have clips at the top or midpoint of the cup. These boxes often go to hospitals.

size 18+ relatively rare, we don't send them to places with small women.

Size 8-16

Mastectomy bras - have a pocket lining the entire cup which will hold the prosthesis. Rare, but needed.

Swimwear – this goes to coastal women who stand in the water for hours and fish to feed their family, or who dive for octopus or beche de mere for a living.

What to do with:

Underpants,socks, bodysuits etc. We always get them! New underpants & useable socks can be added to a box of similar size bras. Used underpants, bodysuits, torsolettes & bedroom lingerie should be thrown out.

Strapless bras put in with correct size if straps are available.

Bras needing repair are low priority. Good quality ones can be easily repaired with a needle & thread only go in, and others may used for shoulder straps for the strapless, and to make strap extenders.

Speed Sorting Tips!

Set out a line of cardboard boxes, labelled with the categories.

May we suggest you find a size 18 with a readable tag, and fold it in half at centre front, and lay it out on its "side". Just use it is a rough measuring device, if any bra is that size or bigger, toss it in the 18+ box. Once bras stretch a bit the effective size warps a little.

The fastest way to sort is by underwire - if a bra doesn't have one, check for nursing bra clips. If it does, after sorting a few you'll get a sense of the size of a 16 underwire versus a 20, cutting down the number of bras to be "measured".

It is tempting to toss in other **personal items** for women, like perfume or jewellery etc. but these may break, and if not declared on a packing label may cause trouble with Customs.

If possible, please include a **bra fitting instruction sheet** in each box.

Boxes/packaging to Use

Please use **no packaging materials** that are not bio-degradable. We are stuck with packing tape, sadly. There is no rubbish disposal system in many places. For ease of handling, please keep **box sizes** to apple/pear box size, which hold about 80 bras each. Pharmacies have useful size boxes to get rid of too.

Labelling the boxes

We need to label each box with **number of bras** (roughly), **type** (8-18, 18+, Nursing, swimwear)and **second hand** or **new**.

Please label both ends of each box so they can be read in warehouse /storage situations

Thick texta is best, and big writing with a double circle around the writing. If you have to use a paper label (too much print on the box end) packing tape around all 4 sides of the label is the only way to avoid tearing/label loss when boxes rub together in transit.