FREEGLE ADMINS

Draft Admins/Tips to be offered on Modtools at regular intervals for groups to send out, either as they are or edited to be more local, or to decline if not wanted.

Intent?: to encourage more freegling, suggest new ideas, make freegling experience better.

How often to be sent out?:

- probably once every two months, although could reflect seasonal ideas, but not more
- than once a month;
- they will appear in Modtools for teams to decide if they wish to use them - to edit or decline before being sent out.

Modtools to show link to wiki - http://wiki.ilovefreegle.org/Admins for a wider range of templates.

ADMIN CALENDAR SUGGESTIONS:

Spring

- Valentine's Day *post 2nd February*
- Spring Cleaning *post 2nd March*
- Get Growing *post 2nd April*

Summer

- School Holidays *post 2nd June*
- Garden Produce *post 2nd August*

Autumn

- Halloween *post 2nd October*
- Bonfire Night (**NOT NI**) *post 20th October*

Winter

- Christmas *post 1st December*
- Post Christmas *post 26th December*
- New Year *post 30th December*
- End of the year (or group anniversary)

Any Time

- Bank Holiday
- Keep Safe
- No Shows / No Replies

SPRING: Available on Modtools from 2nd February

Valentines Day:

Love the environment as much as your partner?

Reused, secondhand, upcycled, handmade - it's the thought that counts!

Reuse creates less pollution than making a new item or recycling, so Freegle something as your Valentine's gift of love for everyone.

From your friendly $groupname volunteers

Contact us at $owneremail

Spring Cleaning: Available on Modtools from 2nd March

Have you got things hiding away in the corners of your cupboards?

A garage with no room for the car? Stuff that is just collecting dust?

Been meaning to have a sort out but never got round to it?

Make a vow to do it now. But don't tip it, please give it away on Freegle!

Your friendly $groupname volunteers

Contact us at $owneremail

Get Growing: Available on Modtools from 2nd April

Spring is here, and it's time to "get growing!!"

Freegle is the place to request or offer spare seeds and plants, flower pots and trays, garden tools, cold frames, compost bins, water butts or maybe even a shed or greenhouse!
Be creative with what you can find to use as planters:- buckets, watering cans, kettles, teapots, old car tyres, seed trays and/or cold frames, the list is endless, use your imagination!.
Maybe you have a quantity of toilet/kitchen roll centres or even old newspapers? They can be used as biodegradable seedling pots, then just plant them in the ground.
Lots more ideas can be found online, have a search!

Follow us on Facebook to see lots of upcycling ideas for the garden throughout the year.

We can all grow things! On window sills and balconies, in patio pots, allotments, community gardens or your own. Be creative and do your bit for the environment and your neighbours.

Your friendly $groupname volunteers

Contact us at $owneremail

SUMMER: Available on Modtools from 20th July

Summer School Holidays

At last, the school summer holidays are arriving, and we've got our fingers crossed for lovely weather.

Don't forget to Freegle whilst you're planning your summer:

- Offer outgrown school uniform and request new sizes.
- Surplus of stationery or new things needed? Offer and ask.
- Activities needn't cost a fortune, there's lots of ideas online for reuse or recycling play for children.
- Raining? Get the whole family involved in sorting out surplus items that can be freegled or recycled and declutter your home, shed, or garage.

Have a great time!

Your friendly $groupname volunteers

Contact us at $owneremail

LATE SUMMER/AUTUMN Available on Modtools from 15th August

Garden Produce

Excess of homegrown apples, beans or….?

Freegle your extra produce, your community would love to take it off your hands.

If you're making jams, chutneys, fruit vinegars, cordials - ask for jars and bottles on Freegle.

And if you've got lots of jars and bottles and nothing to put in them? Offer them on Freegle!

We'd love to see your Freegle success stories - or discover your best recipes! Join us on ChitChat to share yours.

Your friendly $groupname volunteers

Contact us at $owneremail

AUTUMN: Available on Modtools from 2nd October

Halloween

It's that time of year again – pumpkins, trick-or-treating and halloween parties.

Don't waste the pumpkin pulp when you make your lantern - cook it up! Find some great recipes online - https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/howto/guide/how-cook-pumpkin

However please don't dump your unwanted pumpkin where the local wildlife can access it, especially hedgehogs - check out this link: https://www.forestryengland.uk/news/dumping-pumpkins-the-woods-bad-wildlife-says-forestry-england-expert#:~:text=Pumpkins%20are%20not%20natural%20to,unwell%20and%20can%20spread%20disease.

Are you looking for dressing-up clothes for you or your family? Ask for or offer costumes or clothes that can be upcycled or accessorised on Freegle.

If you're trick or treating – you could reuse large plastic containers for the children to collect their goodies (and get them to help decorate them), or make cloth reusable ones from old sheets or surplus fabric.

Are you planning a party?
Decorations – ask for themed items on Freegle and offer any you have left over.
Make your own – reuse jars and candle stubs (light them for the shortest time), cardboard tubes for articulated spider legs with jar lid for body, large cardboard box tombstone…. There are lots of ideas out there, and we'd love to see your creations!

Don't have enough crockery, cups or cutlery? We all hate plastic, so just ask for some on Freegle, embrace your new eclectic collection, and you can always re-offer anything that you don't need afterwards.

We hope you have a spooky green Halloween!

Your friendly $groupname volunteers

Contact us at $owneremail

Bonfire Night Available on Modtools from 20th October **(Not N. Ireland)**

Remember, remember… be green this November!

If you are planning to have your own bonfire, make sure you use only clean dry garden waste, untreated wood and recycled cardboard for kindling.

Making a Guy? Use only old clothes that really aren't suitable for anyone to wear anymore, stuffed with recycled paper - and you can ask for these items on Freegle.

As with all family/friends get-togethers and parties, celebrate with mismatched crockery, cutlery and cups and avoid plastic! You can ask for some extras on Freegle if you need them, and re-freegle them afterwards if you no longer need them.

PLEASE, PLEASE, don't forget to check there are no hedgehogs or other living creatures in or beneath your bonfire before lighting it!
If possible don't build your bonfire until the day, that way it is unlikely any creatures will inhabit it before you light it.

Wrap up warm and have a safe time!

Your friendly $groupname volunteers

Contact us at $owneremail

WINTER: Available on Modtools from 1st December

Christmas

Some of us will be celebrating Christmas, some just taking a break from our usual routines. You may be looking for your decorations, or making space for visitors.

While you're at it, if you find things you don't need any more, you could just put them back in a box and store them away again – or you might offer them to someone else on Freegle.

Any unwanted toys? Other children would really appreciate them.
Decorations/Christmas lights? Bought new and have old ones taking up space? Offer them up, they'll likely find a good home!,

After the holiday, if there are things that you've replaced, or even gifts that are just not right, please do offer them to others rather than consigning them to the tip (or storing them away 'just in case').

Spare food that you've bought but is still in date? Others would probably love to have it.

Any of the above could brighten up someone else's holiday and New Year!

Happy holidays and thanks for all your support throughout the year. Your community, the environment and all of us at Freegle are so pleased you care.

From your friendly $groupname volunteers
Contact us at $owneremail

Post Christmas Available on Modtools from 26th December

We've had lots of seasonal celebrations and festivities - and probably received some lovely gifts, but amongst them are there things you won't use? Don't put them in a cupboard, or worse still in the bin!

You could:

- regift them to friends or family (*it helps to make a note of who gave them to you so you don't accidentally give them back to that same person*!!)
- give them to good causes for raffle prizes
- offer them on Freegle

Otherwise, you know they will be lurking in that cupboard, loft or shed unloved for years and that's not what the people who gifted them to you wanted to happen!

Your friendly $groupname volunteers

Contact us at $owneremail

New Year (1) Possibly available on Modtools from 30th December

It's a brand new year – and a time for resolutions. And we know that we can all make a difference on every level to prevent waste!

Reduce: Do we really need to buy it? If we all consume less, then the less waste there will be.

Reuse: Use everything until it is no longer fit for purpose. Freegle items you don't need that can be used by others or maybe you can use items that others are offering.

Repair: Rather than recycling or throwing away - there are endless tutorials on the Internet to show you how; or if it's not in your skillset (or you'd like to learn), try attending a Repair Café (https://www.repaircafe.org/) – and of course, many local businesses may offer a range of repair options.

Recycle: Things don't belong in landfill if they can be recycled. All materials are precious, so they need to be used again if at all possible.

Disposal: Put as little as possible in general waste bins and make sure everything is properly disposed of – we own the items, so it's our responsibility to ensure proper end of life arrangements for them!

If you have any more ideas, or some green resolutions of your own, we'd love to hear them! Why not share them with your fellow Freeglers in our ChitChat section?

Your friendly $groupname volunteers

Contact us at $owneremail

New Year (2) Possibly available on Modtools from 30th December

We've had lots of seasonal celebrations and festivities and probably received lovely gifts. But are some of them things you won't use? Don't put them in a cupboard or the bin!

Regift them to friends or family (it helps to make a note of who gave them to you so you don't accidentally give them back to the same person), give them to good causes for raffle prizes, or offer them on Freegle. Otherwise you know they will be lurking in that cupboard, loft or shed unloved for years, and that's not what the person who gifted the item to you wanted to happen!

Your friendly $groupname volunteers

Contact us at $owneremail

End of the Year (or anniversary of start of group) Available on Modtools from 30th December

Thanks for supporting us, we've come a long way from the **XX** messages posted in our first month in 20xx. We now regularly see **XXXXX** messages each month and by our estimates we've kept nearly **XXXXX** kg from landfill in just the last month! (equivalent to **XXXXX** grandfather clocks).

We have over **XXXXX** members – but that means there's still over **XXXXX** people in **XXXXX** who have yet to start freegling - please spread the word. You can use the 'invite' button on the group to invite your friends and family to Freegle - there's an option to link them with their local group if they don't live nearby.

Your friendly $groupname volunteers

Contact us at $owneremail

Delete the following and resave this Admin before sending out to your group(s) …
(note to team: Some XXX stats information is on Modtools dashboard and https://www.ilovefreegle.org/stats/authorities, others via your local council website)

ADMIN ANY TIME SUGGESTIONS:

Bank Holiday

Avoid the tip this bank holiday weekend

With an extra day off it's tempting to gather up loads of items, put them in the boot of your car and dump them at the tip. It's all rubbish isn't it? Maybe, but take a closer look and think about other uses for them - you're now looking at a valuable resource.

Here are a few ideas of what to look for.

Old towels and blankets - maybe a local animal rescue centre could use these.

Bulk small items together: 30 plastic plant pots, a couple of old planters, some wire and an offcut of fencing - all collected by a grateful gardener who was starting up an allotment.

Put similar items together: A lockable child proof box and toy boxes were collected by a freegler who was about to start fostering children.

It doesn't have to be big: A rotary washing line spike that didn't fit was collected and installed on the same day complete with drying clothes. Both freeglers were delighted.

Is it broken? Great, that's a good thing. There are plenty of freeglers who love to mend items or upcycle them into something completely different. So offer your broken washing machine, printer, jam jars, garden fencing, bricks and more!

We'll be freegling this weekend, why don't you too - have a great time!

Your friendly $groupname volunteers

Contact us at $owneremail

Keep Safe

We feel this might be a good time for a reminder about your personal safety on this group. Freegle is a friendly place, but we all have to stay on the safe side, so:

- Avoid posting full postcodes, addresses or phone numbers on the public list. Save these for private messages.
- It's OK to communicate with other members by messaging only and not giving out your phone number. Please be understanding if someone requests this of you.
- If you're concerned about meeting people at your house, you can arrange to meet away from your home to pass on items (where practical), or make sure that people come round when you have a friend or relative with you.
- If you're delivering or collecting something from someone's house, please remember they are a stranger; take all of your usual reasonable precautions when meeting someone for the first time and don't assume a 'friendship' just because you have exchanged a few messages.
- People collecting from you need to be safe too, so make sure your property is physically safe, as we all have a duty of care towards others.

Remember if anything about a Freegle contact concerns you, even if it's just vague "bad vibes", then feel free to trust your instincts!

You can give items to whoever you choose, you are under no obligation to divulge phone numbers or social networking contacts, and you don't have to justify your decision to anyone. Please let our team know if you have any concerns.

Above all keep safe and keep freegling.

Your friendly $groupname volunteers

Contact us at $owneremail

No Shows / No Replies

Sadly, we have been receiving a number of complaints from members. These are mainly from those offering items when others do not turn up to collect as arranged and from those asking for items who never get any kind of reply but see the item remaining on the offers board.

To help resolve this problem we are asking you to:

a/ describe an item being offered as accurately as possible and add a photo if you can; this gives anyone interested a better idea as to whether it is what they want or not

b/ mark an item as Taken (or Received if you have posted a request) as soon as possible; please do not leave it until next time you have another item to post

c/ if you enquire about an item, please let the other person know if it is not what you are looking for, rather than leave them to wonder if you will come back to confirm collection or not

d/ if you have arranged a date and time to collect an item and then need to change this, or have changed your mind, please let them know – we all hate No-Shows!

Can we remind everyone that we ask all members to deal with other members politely, as you would wish to be treated yourself and help build a friendly community.

Thank you for being a member of $groupname Freegle. If you have any queries, we are here to help.

Your friendly $groupname volunteers

Contact us at $owneremail

N. Ireland Only Dates

2026

St Patrick's Day 17 March

Orangemen's Day 12th July