

Prohibited goods

The Prohibited Goods list is a list of items which the British Red Cross retail department has decided must not be sold in Red Cross shops. Whilst the primary aim of Red Cross shops is income generation to help fund our work in the UK and overseas, there are of course certain items where other considerations take precedence and dictate that the item should not be offered for sale.

A great deal of research has gone into this list, which has been produced after consultation with Trading Standards, Customs & Excise, Department of Trade & Industry, and the British Red Cross Health and Safety officer, Legal Department and the Head of International Humanitarian Law. In order to clarify the reasons for a class of good being prohibited, the list is presented in a tabular format. The reason(s) for the prohibition is listed against each item. These reasons are clarified below in general terms. It is an offence for a supplier to sell goods unless they are safe. This applies to both new and second-hand products, but not to antiques.

Reasons for prohibition

1 Safety

- > Items that may present a danger to shop staff, volunteers and customers in their storage, usage or handling (e.g. gas appliances, pointed objects)
- > Items which are safety equipment, but where the Society cannot guarantee that it is still effective for safety purposes.

2 Hygiene

- > Items that may present a hygiene risk to in their use or handling.

3 Legal

- > Sale is prohibited absolutely
- > Sale can only be made if the Society has the necessary licence and this is either inappropriate (e.g. firearms) or too expensive (e.g. Food Standards Agency licences).

4 Wellbeing

It is not illegal to sell the item, nor is the item one of safety equipment, but use of the item may cause harm to the customer e.g. dentures.

5 Undesirable

Although there is no legal or other reason to prohibit the sale of these goods, they are not desirable and are unlikely to sell.

Prohibited goods list - British Red Cross shops

Prohibited items	Reason for prohibition
Gas, electrical and fuelled appliances	
Gas appliances (mains or bottled gas) of any kinds - including cookers, fires, lighters and gas canister operated heated brushes	Safety
Microwaves - it is costly to get them tested. Additional heat and radiation tests need to be conducted to check for radiation levels. Someone with PAT testing competence is not qualified to conduct radiation tests required	Safety
Electric fires - there are many rules governing bar thickness and bar guards	Safety
Oil heaters, petrol or diesel fuelled items	Safety
Computer hard drives - it is not the actual goods but the software that they contain. Due to copyright law the software cannot be resold.	Legal
Four wheeled scooters - the type that people with a disability use to allow greater mobility. This is due to the safety aspect as a suitably qualified person must make sure they are road worthy (similar to a car MOT test). If you have such items please contact the Red Cross Independent Living Team for advice on 0116 244 9049	Safety
Pharmaceuticals	
Any type of medication - prescription or pharmacy products	Safety/ Legal
Cosmetics, aftershave and perfumes unless unused in original sealed packs	Hygiene/Undesirable
Dentures and prosthesis of any type	Wellbeing
Earrings for pierced ears, any jewellery/adornment for pierced body parts including nose, mouth, lips, navel etc. These need to be autoclaved to be fully sterilised (100 degrees is not sufficient)	Hygiene/ Safety
<p>Prescription spectacles - Vision Aid Overseas take donations of all glasses. If you would like details of an opticians in your area who are collecting on their behalf, please call them on 01293 535016 (see www.voa.org.uk for details)</p> <p>✓ We are able to sell 'off the shelf' glasses or 'ready readers'. Because the strength of the lens is an approximation they tend to be less accurate and can cause eyestrain though this will not cause any lasting damage to eyes</p>	Wellbeing
Dangerous items	
Fire arms and ammunition of any type including starter pistols	Legal/Fundamental Principles
Pointed objects that can be used as weapons, including butchers knives, flick knives, fishing or sports knives, swords, daggers, axes etc)	Safety/Legal
Any knives, blades and sharply pointed items to under 18s - The Criminal Justice Act 1988 makes it illegal to sell the following items to a person under 18 years old. (Anyone who appears under the age of 21 must be asked to prove their age):	Safety/Legal

<p>> Any knife, knife blade or razor blade (including cutlery, kitchen and Swiss army knives)</p> <p>> Any article which has a blade or which is sharply pointed, and which is made or adapted for causing injury (except scissors, compasses)</p> <p>A refusal register should be kept</p>	
Weapons and realistic toy weapons	Legal/Fundamental Principles
Poisonous/toxic/hazardous substances	Safety/Legal
Flammable items such as firelighters, barbeque lighting tools	Safety/Legal
Solvents and solvent based products	Legal/Nondesirable
Multimedia	
Any goods that infringe the copyright law e.g. pirate DVDs. Pirate audiotapes are recognisable from the quality of the inlay card artwork; it is unlikely that there will be any information printed on the inside of the inlay card. Counterfeit CDs can be recognised by the colour of the disc. Copies tend to be a bluish - green colour or sometimes gold, they also will have poor quality artwork. Some film companies do mark their DVDs with holograms i.e. Walt Disney and Columbia Tri-Star, but pirate videotapes are most easily recognised by the poor packaging	Legal
Pornographic publications, DVDs, including any DVDs/videos classified as R18	Legal/Fundamental Principles
Any DVDs/videos that have not been given a legal classification by the British Board of Film Classification and is accurately labelled as such. These are U, Uc, PG, 12A, 12, 15, 18	
We must not sell 18 certificate films or computer games to under 18s (Anyone who appears under the age of 21 must be asked to prove their age). Please note that the same age restrictions and proof of identification will apply to 12 and 15 rated media. Any over 18 films must be placed on high shelves, out of reach of children. We should avoid the sale of films or computer games with excessively violent or sexual content	Legal/Fundamental Principles
A refusal register will be kept by the shop team	

Goods prohibited for reasons of Fundamental Principles	
Religious regalia such as crucifixes, Menorahs (the Jewish candelabras), statues of the Buddha, rosaries and nativity sets are prohibited ✓ Shops are able to sell religious and political books and texts. This will include the primary religious texts such as the Bible, Koran, the Torah and any other books about religion/s and spirituality.	Fundamental Principles
Children's items	Safety
New and second-hand toys without the CE mark.	Safety/Legal
Second hand children's shoes - the arches in the shoes have conformed to the previous owner's feet and can therefore damage children's feet by not fitting properly in the arch, even if the size is fine. We can only sell 'second hand' children's 'shoes' if they have never been worn (donated 'as new'). However we are able to sell wellington boots, jellies and flip flops	Wellbeing
Children's garments with drawstring hoods (the drawstring must be removed).	Legal/Safety
Cot, crib or Moses basket mattresses – it is recommended a new mattress is bought for each new baby as this can help to reduce the risk of cot death	Safety/Hygiene
Children's car seats/ car booster seats - a seat purchased second hand might have no or incomplete fitting instructions. An incorrectly installed seat might not perform in the event of an accident - possibly with fatal results	Safety
Larger children's bicycles (saddle height of more than 635mm from ground)	Safety
Used manual breast pumps, sterilisers or baby monitors. Only brand new items can be sold provided (N.B. electrical items must comply with our PAT testing guidance)	Safety/Hygiene
Baby walking frames, door bouncers, baby slings	Safety
Child safety gates – Second hand stair gates may not come equipped with all the necessary fittings and fixtures, which are essential for ensuring full safety	Safety
Nursery furniture that contains upholstery such as baby nests, baby rockers, travel cots, carry-cots, cribs, highchairs, playpens, (unless the original label is still attached, stating that the article complies with The Furniture and Furnishings (Fire Safety) Regulations 1988, or the item predates 1950.)	Legal
Repainted cots - cots that have been repainted might contain lead or other substances, that may be harmful if chewed	Safety

Other	
New or second hand items of fur.	Undesirable
Golliwog dolls, toys, figurines, books etc	Undesirable
Crash helmets, riding hats, 'hard hats' - all types of protective headgear including cycle and motorbike helmets, rock climbing helmets etc	Safety
Bicycles - The sale of second hand bicycles is covered by the General Product Safety Regulations 1994. This means that if you supply an unsafe bicycle you can be prosecuted and face a large fine	Safety
Alcohol, cigarette/tobacco, electronic cigarettes, personal vaporizers and e-cigarette accessories. Drugs – prescription or any other form and drug paraphernalia.	Legal/Fundamental Principles
Any police, emergency services or government identification, uniforms, vehicle license plates.	Legal
Red Cross uniforms, military items, clothing, identity cards, decorations, awards or flags which are not promotional items.	Fundamental Principles
Wheelchairs, wheeled walkers – due to safety and infection control issues. It is not advisable for people to buy second hand wheelchairs without professional advice as they will need to know that the item is appropriate for their needs.	Safety/ Hygiene
Foodstuffs of any description - a licence is required from the Foods Standards Agency	Legal
Second hand sex aids/toys	Hygiene
Nightwear without flammable warning label/s, including children's and adults nightdresses, pyjamas, dressing gowns and bathrobes	Safety
Upholstered furniture (foam filled) including beds, headboards, cushions, pillows, cover fabric and filling material (unless the original label is still attached, stating that the article complies with The Furniture and Furnishings (Fire Safety) Regulations 1988, or the item predates 1950)	Legal
Ivory - The trade in Ivory is banned out right. There are three exceptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > A pre-1900 piano with ivory keys > Pre-1900 furniture and other wooden items which include ivory inlays > Any items containing ivory that we believe are 'antique' (pre 1947) however, there is an onus on the seller to have an affidavit or statement from an antiques dealer saying that in their opinion the piece is pre 1947 and is therefore legal to sell 	Legal
Bone – any items made from animals that produce ivory, including elephants, mammoths, walruses, and whales	Legal

<p>Turtle or tortoise shell items - Items made, in whole or in part, from any part of sea turtles, regardless of age of the item (e.g., guitar picks, jewellery, jewellery boxes, hair combs)</p> <p>Tortoise shell-coloured items (such as combs, eyewear, handbags, and shoes) made of plastic or another man-made material is permitted but should clearly indicate the item is not made of genuine tortoise shell</p>	<p>Legal</p>
<p>Any items made from sale of endangered species</p>	<p>Legal</p>

For any additional queries about items not mentioned on this list which you have concerns about selling, please phone our National Retail Centre: 01883 724210.