



La Leche League Alliance

What can you do with used or new breast pumps?

Used breast pumps made for consumers are for single-users only. La Leche League International and pump manufacturers specify this for two reasons. The first is that even though many brands are considered closed systems, there is still a chance for milk to flow backwards into the pump and cause cross-contamination. The second reason is that these pumps are only made to last a year to two at the most. They will not suddenly stop working, but the motor can wear out gradually, decreasing the amount of milk pumped, and making the user think they are having a decrease in milk production.

Knowing this, it is never approved to share, donate, or sell used breast pumps.

What to do with a used pump?

Many pump manufacturers have recycling programs. They will take their own pumps back and break them down for proper disposal. There is electronic waste with them which can be hazardous in landfills and the underground water supply. You can contact your pump's manufacturer and see if they take back pumps for recycling.

Manufacturers will only accept their own brand pumps.

What if you have a new pump, never used, that you'd like to donate?

If you have a pump paid for through your health insurance, it is unethical (and possibly illegal) to sell it for profit.

There are some charities who accept never-used, boxed pumps to provide them to those in need. You can investigate who in your area might do so. You might contact county health departments who provide pregnancy care, area hospitals with NICUs, or parenting organizations who help low-income families.