



Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Library of Things?

A Library of Things (LOT) is a collection of useful and unique items that can be borrowed with your library card. The LOT was created, in line with our mission and vision, to provide access to a broad range of resources that enrich lives and build community. Individual LOT items are called “Things”.

What items are in the LOT?

HTFL’s LOT collects items in four distinct areas: Games, Home & Family, Leisure, and Technology. A complete list of Things is available on our website: <https://haverfordlibrary.org/library-of-things/>. There is also a spinner near the reference desk to view the status of each item.

Who can borrow Things, and for how long?

Things will be available for free to library users 18 and up for a one-week borrowing period. They may not be renewed. If requested when booking, the due date for an item may be extended to two weeks.

How do I borrow and return Things?

Things are bookable through the reference desk. You may stop by, call (610-446-3082 x503) or email (reference@haverfordlibrary.org) to book a Thing. You can view Things in the online catalog but their status will say “See Librarian”. Things cannot be requested online as a hold or borrowed via delivery to other libraries. Things cannot be returned to other libraries or placed in an HTFL book drop.

You pick up and return Things at the reference desk. At pickup, you will view the contents and sign a borrowing agreement for each Thing. It details general expectations as well as the individual item cost, contents, and overdue and cleaning fees. You will check out the Thing with your library card and also receive a copy of your signed borrowing agreement. Things must be complete, clean, and dry upon return, ready for the next user with minimal effort from Library staff.

How many Things can I check out?

You can check out two Things at a time on any adult library card. You may also create bookings for the future. Users in a single household may not schedule back-to-back bookings on a Thing and must leave 10 days between bookings in fairness to other users.

What if I lose or break part of a Thing?

Reference staff will check the contents of each Thing upon return. Incomplete or damaged Things will not be checked in. If something has been forgotten at home, we will hold the Thing without fines for three days while that part is returned. For lost or broken elements, the borrowing agreement for each Thing contains information about replacement costs. A manual charge will be added to your account and then the item will be checked in. If your issue falls outside of what is listed, we will contact you with a replacement price and add a manual charge to your library account. The library will check in the item once the charge is assessed.

What if I lose or break an entire Thing?

The borrowing agreement for each Thing states the total replacement cost. This cost will be added to your library record for repayment.

Will the library staff teach me how to use a Thing, or provide technical support?

No, the Things are provided as a convenience and each one includes the instruction manual, if needed. Additional information and video tutorials can be searched on the internet.

Does the LOT take donations?

The LOT does not currently take donations. However, suggestions for purchase are welcome!

Do other libraries have a Library of Things?

Yes, many local libraries have a LOT collection. For Delaware County, links can be found at delcolibraries.org/library-of-things. Each library has their own procedures for borrowing.