



This is topic **Police ask: got milk crates?** in forum **Police Blotter** at **snopes.com**.

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Posted by **snopes** on 07 June, 2006 07:37 PM08. June 2006 03:37 AM:

Missing milk crates used to wind up in college dormitories as bins for clothes, books and CDs. Today pilfered crates -- as well as pallets, bakery trays and other containers made from a pricey high-density plastic resin -- are going into grinders in recycling plants, say dairy and soft-drink industry loss-prevention officials and police.

<http://www.postgazette.com/pg/06157/696129-84.stm>

Posted by **cse1's cshells** on 07 June, 2006 08:54 PM08. June 2006 04:54 AM:

Ooooh - I better hide the milk crate I have from college 20 years ago.....someone might try to recycle it, or arrest me for possession. Even worse....it's been across several state lines 🤔

Posted by **Bettie Page Turner** on 08 June, 2006 06:30 AM08. June 2006 02:30 PM:

::Holes up in corner behind crate barricade, reinforced with tagless mattress::
You'll never take me alive, coppers!

Posted by **RelicMan** on 10 June, 2006 03:19 AM10. June 2006 11:19 AM:

At least the spool/coffee-table people seem safe for the moment . . .

Posted by **boogers** on 10 June, 2006 06:26 AM10. June 2006 02:26 PM:

They'll get my milk crates when they pry them from my cold dead hands...
Are they coming for those cinder block and scrap lumber bookshelves? My parents built one of those in 1961 and for all I know they still have it.

Posted by **Echinodermata Q. Taft** on 10 June, 2006 11:34 AM10. June 2006 07:34 PM:

I knew a guy when I was a kid, a friend of my brother's, who had a roomfull of these -- he was a record collector, and the walls of his bedroom were literally stacked from floor to ceiling with milk crates full of records. There must have been at least thirty of them, probably more. No idea if he's still got them (I know he eventually sold many of his records, once CD's came in), though I expect it would be covered by the statute of limitations by now...

One thing the article (perhaps wisely) doesn't say is how much each one is worth to a recycler. I'd be curious to know.

Posted by **Pseudo_Croat** on 10 June, 2006 06:24 PM11. June 2006 02:24 AM:

I don't see what the fuss is all about. As long as it's being put to good use and simply not thrown away, it shouldn't be considered stealing. And I'd much rather see such scrap materials salvaged and reused rather than simply recycled.

So it really shouldn't be called stealing at all.

- Pseudo "thou shalt not waste" Croat

Posted by **Em** on 10 June, 2006 06:38 PM11. June 2006 02:38 AM:

quote:

Originally posted by Pseudo_Croat:

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So as long as they're driving it safely and don't torch it, having a stranger take your car for an interstate drive shouldn't be called stealing at all?

The point is that the dairy companies *do* reuse the crates. If people hoard them, the company has to pay for new ones to be made.

Posted by **mags** on 10 June, 2006 06:38 PM11. June 2006 02:38 AM:

PC, did you even read the article? The crates are ordinarily reused. However, a great many have begun to "go missing" only to be ground up and resold. They aren't scrap materials, they are crates and other items that are intended to be reused by the company that bought them for many years. If they decide to retire some, I'm sure they'd recycle and sell them themselves.

Taking something that doesn't belong to you, chopping it up, and reselling it isn't stealing? I guess it'd be fine if your car ends up at a chop shop then.

The issue isn't the few crates that have ended up in people's homes to be used for years. It's the recent theft for resale trend.
