

Perrot Memorial Library Library of Things (LOT) – Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Library of Things (LOT)?

The Library of Things is our new collection of non-traditional borrowable items—things beyond books and media. It offers items such as tools, games, technology, household gadgets and more. The idea is to enable access to useful and/or enjoyable items that patrons might not otherwise purchase or store -- supporting exploration, creativity, skill-building, and sustainability (borrowing instead of buying). This aligns with the emerging LOT movement in libraries across the country.

Why does the Library offer LOT items?

- To broaden what the Library offers so you can try new things without the upfront cost. Examples include a tool for a one-time project, a bounce house for a child’s birthday party, or a murder mystery game for a dinner gathering with friends.
- To reduce waste and support a sharing culture in the community -- you borrow rather than buy or try-before-you-buy.
- To maximize the value of library services by offering more than books and digital media.

Who is eligible to borrow LOT items?

- Any adult resident (18 and over) from any town in Connecticut who has a valid, unexpired library card registered in our circulation system.
- If you are a non-resident cardholder from another Connecticut library, please bring your current card, and we’ll add you to our database so you may borrow LOT items.
- Your library account must be in good standing, with no blocks or outstanding fees, to borrow LOT items.

How can I see what items are available?

- Visit the LOT section of the [Perrot Library website](#).
- Use our online catalog and filter or search for “Library of Things.”
- Ask at any of our public service desks.

Can I reserve LOT items?

We have two tiers of items with different loan/renewal/reserve rules:

Type	Loan Period	Renewable	Reservable	Late Fee	Return Location
Express	1 week	No	No	\$5/day (max \$50)	Perrot Library only
Regular	3 weeks	Once	Yes	None	Perrot Library only

What happens if I lose or damage an LOT item?

We expect normal wear and tear with use. However, if an item is lost, incomplete (missing parts), or damaged beyond repair, you will be billed for replacement. We will determine

replacement cost on a case-by-case basis, and you will be responsible for the full cost of items or components lost or damaged.

What is the Puzzle/Game Exchange?

This is a separate, informal program: You are welcome to bring in a gently used, complete puzzle or game in good condition and trade it for one on our exchange shelf. There are no checkouts, holds, renewals, or late fees; just bring one in and take one home, while supplies last.

Where and when do I check out or return LOT items?

All LOT items must be checked out and returned at the Adult Circulation Desk in our Main Building during regular hours:

- Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9 am-6 pm
- Tuesday, Thursday: 9 am-8 pm
- Saturday: 9 am-5 pm
- Sunday (September through June): 1-5 pm

Please note: Do not return LOT items via the book-drop or leave them outside the Library. Because many items require inspection for completeness and condition, they must be returned inside the Library.

How do I check out an item?

1. Choose the item you wish to borrow (either via catalog or display).
2. Go to the Adult Circulation Desk and ask staff to confirm its availability.
3. You will be asked to sign our LOT Lending Policy & Borrowing Agreement (and if applicable, a separate WiFi hotspot agreement).
4. Staff will check out the selected item and show you where to pick it up.
5. For larger or heavy items: Please be prepared to carry the item to your car.
6. Please inspect the item (Check that all parts/accessories are included.) before leaving the desk and let staff know immediately if something is missing or damaged.

What support is available if I have questions after checkout?

- You may call the Circulation Desk at 203-637-1066 or email lending@perrotlibrary.org.
- We may schedule an appointment to walk you through the basic operation of an item if needed.
- Each item will include manufacturer instructions in the bag or case.
- Our LOT web page includes links to helpful YouTube/tutorial videos where appropriate.
- Please remember: The Library is not responsible for personal injury, damage or misuse of an item once it is checked out. (You assume proper use and handling.)

Additional Policies & Important Notes

- Items must be returned on time. Late fees will apply, and repeated late or incomplete returns may lead to suspension of LOT borrowing privileges.
- Some items may require you to be 18 years or older—and in some cases you may need to demonstrate that you understand safe operation (or sign a waiver).
- The person who checks out the item is responsible for the item.
- Items should be returned clean and complete; missing components will incur replacement charges.
- The Library reserves the right to refuse checkout if your account has unresolved overdue materials or fees.
- Loan periods, fees, or item eligibility may change at any time.

Suggesting Future LOT Items

We welcome your suggestions! Email us at lending@perrotlibrary.org with your ideas, explaining why the item would be useful or popular. Donations of LOT items will be accepted only after staff review for suitability, condition, maintenance cost, and storage space considerations. Management reserves the right to refuse any donated items. Once the item is donated, it becomes the property of the Library and will not be returned.

Thank you for participating in the Library of Things! We hope this collection opens new possibilities—whether it's tackling a DIY project, trying a new hobby, or exploring new technology.