

Guide to Green Disposal of Electronics and their Accessories

Why is e-waste such a problem?

Electronics that are improperly disposed of pose a **great threat** to the environment. For one, electronics contain plastics, **precious metals**, and glass that can be recycled and reused. If electronics end up in the landfill, more resources must be created and mined. Additionally, electronics contain **toxic chemicals** that can leech from landfills into the ground, affecting wildlife and water sources.

Many organizations and institutions have taken steps to prevent these negative impacts. Some states have **passed laws** that require proper disposal of certain materials. Specialized recycling facilities often offer **mail-in and drop-off** facilities for those outside of their districts. Many electronics companies offer **tech take-back programs** for their electronic equipment. The EPA has compiled a list of major companies that offer these programs here: <https://www.epa.gov/recycle/electronics-donation-and-recycling>.

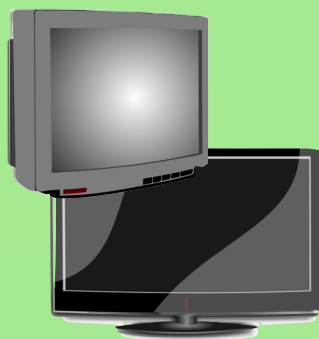
What can you do?

This guide serves as a resource to help decide which of your electronics can be recycled and how. earth911.com has an extensive database of recycling facilities and information about what can be recycled. It also provides alternative options to recycling. Most of the information on this guide comes from earth911.com. Thus, for more information, the cite is frequently cited throughout this guide. Additionally, if you want to find specific facilities near you, use the sites search feature https://earth911.com/recycling-center-search-guides/?utm_source=earth911-header&utm_medium=top-navigation-menu&utm_campaign=top-nav-recycle-guide-button.

CELL PHONES & THEIR ACCESSORIES

Cell phones and cell phone accessories are accepted by many take-back programs to be either reused or broken down and recycled. Unfortunately, many people hoard their old cell phones in crammed desk drawers.

If you have extra or broken cells phones and cell phone accessories, visit <https://earth911.com/recycling-guide/how-to-recycle-cell-phones/> for more information about green options for end-of-life care.



TELEVISIONS

TVs contain many toxic chemicals, and so it is important to keep them out of the landfills. Like computers, CRT (top image) TVs have fewer recycling locations than LCD (bottom image) TVs. Fortunately, both have take-back options at large electronic stores.

For more information about recycling TVs and other large electronics, visit <https://earth911.com/recycling-guide/how-to-recycle-large-electronics/>.

COMPUTERS AND MONITORS



Computers are often accepted in take-back programs for reuse or recycling. Some curbside, drop-off, and mail-in recycling services also accept computers and monitors, just check first. LCD (the thin, newer) computer monitors (bottom image on the left) are more likely to be recycled by these services than CRT (the older, thicker) monitors (top image).

If you have an old computer or monitor, visit <https://earth911.com/recycling-guide/how-to-recycle-computer-monitors/> and/or <https://earth911.com/recycling-guide/how-to-recycle-computers/> for more information about green options for end-of-life care.

INK CARTRIDGES

Have your empty ink cartridges refilled wherever you buy your ink. Additional bonus - this is usually cheaper than buying new ink. When you can no longer refill your cartridges, you can recycle them for a cash rebate at most major office supply chains.

Visit <https://earth911.com/recycling-guide/how-to-recycle-ink-cartridges/> for more information about ink cartridge end-of-life care.



Image from Pixi



AUDIO VISUAL TAPES

Audio Visual equipment generally cannot be recycled in your curbside recycling, but there are special mail-in facilities that will accept them.

If you want to get rid of old CDs, CD cases, DVDs, floppy disks, VHS tapes, vinyl records, visit <https://earth911.com/recycling-guide/how-to-recycle-cds-tapes/> for more information about green

BATTERIES

Like many electronics, batteries contain many toxins and should not be disposed of into a landfill. Many states even have laws that ban throwing away batteries. Fortunately, there are many recycling services that will accept batteries by drop-off, take-back, or mail-in.

For more information about recycling batteries, <https://earth911.com/recycling-guide/how-to-recycle-single-use-batteries/> and <https://earth911.com/recycling-guide/how-to-recycle-rechargeable-batteries/>.

