

E-Waste Management - Electronics

What is E-Waste / Electronics Waste?

The term "E-waste" or "Electronics waste" refers to unwanted electronic devices or cathode ray tubes that contain hazardous materials and are generated by households, businesses, and universities. Items such as appliances, computers, laptops, monitors, mobile devices, printers, tablets, and networking equipment. Millions of tons of E-wastes are improperly disposed of in domestic and foreign landfills each year. SJSU takes great care to appropriately manage E-waste by shipping them for recycling at a licensed recycler to reduce environmental damage and to prevent violating federal and state recycling regulations.

Are E-Wastes Hazardous?

E-wastes have a lower health risk to individuals and the environment compared to other hazardous wastes but are much more commonly found in our homes and workplaces. Guidelines for handling and recycling are set by federal and state regulations that also define what products are considered E-wastes and requires the recycling of recoverable materials. E-wastes may contain toxic metals such as antimony, arsenic, barium, cadmium, cobalt, copper, chromium, lead, mercury, nickel, selenium, silver, and zinc. If disposed of in the regular trash, these metals may leach from municipal landfills and end up in our water supplies.

What Should You Do with Your Unwanted Electronic Devices?

Recycle all of your unwanted electronic devices. Only 17.4% of electronics wastes are recycled worldwide due to mismanagement. E-waste includes the following and any device with a circuit board, including: appliances like microwave ovens, audio-visual equipment, cell phones, computers, copiers, games, laptops, monitors, mobile devices, networking equipment, printers, telephones, radios, tablets, watches, and includes anything that has recoverable value, such as cords containing copper or plastic from fiber optic cables, HDMI cables, cable TV/coaxial cables, wires of all types including phone chargers, extension cords, power cords, and any other cables connected to electronic devices.

How Can You Minimize the Amount of E-Waste Generated?

REDUCE

- Resist purchasing the latest electronic devices because your old devices become waste.
- Upgrade functional computers and electronic devices wherever possible rather than replace them.
- Choose durable, long-lasting products and avoid any single-use, disposable, and non-recyclable items.

REUSE

- Don't simply dispose of old electronics in the regular trash. If you no longer want an item, try to find someone who may need it.

RECYCLE

- Request an e-waste pick-up by contacting EH&S at ehs@sjsu.edu or (408) 924-1969 for small amounts or by contacting FD&O at workcontrol@sjsu.edu or (408) 924-1990 for larger amounts and large items.

Important to Remember

- E-wastes must NOT be disposed of in the regular trash! It is against the law and harms the environment and water supplies.
- Reuse E-wastes, if possible. ALWAYS recycle E-wastes if unwanted, damaged, or broken.
- Contact EH&S at ehs@sjsu.edu or (408) 924-1969 for information on proper waste management and disposal.
- For more information about managing universal wastes, visit the [Universal Waste Management](#) page.
- For more information about recycling, visit FD&O's [Recycling & Waste Management](#).

References

- DTSC: [Universal Waste and How to Handle It Fact Sheet](#)
- DTSC: [Electronic Hazardous Waste](#)

