

Washington's Electronic Product Recycling Program

What is the Electronic Product Recycling Program?

A new law requires manufacturers to provide electronic product recycling services at no cost to households, small businesses, charities, school districts, and small governments by January 1, 2009.

To see a copy of the regulation, go to:
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0707042.html>

What Electronic Products Are Included?

Only televisions, desktop computers, laptop computers, and monitors are included.

Where do I recycle my electronics?

Beginning January 1, 2009: Recycling of electronic products covered by the law will be available throughout Washington at no cost to households, small businesses, charities, school districts, and small governments. Collection sites will be available in every city with a population of 10,000 or more and at least one site in every county. To find collection sites in your area, you will be able to call 1-800-RECYCLE or go to ecyclewashington.org.

To recycle your electronic products before January 1, 2009: Electronics recycling options are currently available in selected areas (a fee is usually required). For information on where to recycle your electronics call 1-800-RECYCLE or go to ecyclewashington.org.

Why is electronics recycling needed?

Electronic products contain heavy metals and other chemicals at hazardous levels that make them difficult to dispose of safely.

MORE INFORMATION

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More information about electronic product recycling online:

ecyclewashington.org

Special accommodations:

If you need this publication in an alternative format, call the Solid Waste & Financial Assistance Program at 360-407-6900. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.

For example, every cathode ray picture tube contains an estimated 4-8 pounds of lead. Some of these toxic chemicals, such as mercury, are known to have neurological and developmental effects when infants and children are exposed to them in high levels. Children have a greater risk for exposure because, pound for pound, they breathe more air, drink more water and eat more food than adults.

- Washington averaged one television set per household in 1970 and personal computers were unheard of. By 2009 the Department of Ecology (Ecology) estimates there will be one television for every person in the state and even more computers than people.
- In 2009, an estimated 365,000 televisions and 780,000 computers will reach the end of their life and require recycling and disposal.

Safe and effective management of this ever-increasing waste stream is essential for a healthy Washington.

Will the switch to digital TV Broadcasting in 2009 make my TV obsolete?

No! Non-digital (or analog) TVs will still work!

The U.S. Congress has ordered television stations to switch to digital broadcasting (“over the air”) in February of 2009. If you have a non-digital television and you currently receive free television programming (through an antenna or "rabbit ears"), you will need a digital-to-analog converter box.

Analog TVs will continue to work as before if connected to a cable or satellite television subscription service. The Department of Commerce is offering up to two \$40 coupons per household that can be used toward the purchase of digital-to-analog converter boxes. For information on this coupon program, call 1-888-388-2009 or go to www.ntia.doc.gov/dtvcoupon.

For information on the switchover to digital broadcasting, call 1-888-225-5322 or go to www.dtv.gov.