Electronic Waste

Electronic waste or e-waste includes unwanted, obsolete, or unusable electronic products such as computers, tablets, televisions, DVD players, stereo equipment, and cell phones. E-waste takes up valuable landfill space and can contain hazardous materials such as lead. When disposed of improperly, e-waste can adversely impact human health and the environment.

What should I do with my old electronics?

E-waste can be managed in various ways, depending on its usability, where it was generated, the availability of reprocessing facilities, and other factors.

**Reuse.**

Reusing electronics reduces the amount of e-waste and the raw materials needed to create new devices. Look for electronics repair shops that can help extend the life of your devices. Repair shops, electronics manufacturers, and electronics retailers may also purchase or accept donated electronics to refurbish for resale or use for parts.

**Donate.**

Many charities, schools, and other organizations need equipment. Donating used electronics extends the lifespan of the products while providing valuable resources to organizations in need. Search for electronics donation programs in your area and inquire about their acceptance policies.

**Recycle.**

Recycling conserves natural resources by reusing plastics, metals, and other parts from old electronics. It also conserves limited landfill space and keeps hazardous materials out of landfills. Most major electronics manufacturers and many waste management companies offer recycling programs and some will help coordinate pick-up, delivery, or transport to charities or recycling companies.

**Dispose.**

You may be able to dispose of residential e-waste at a local landfill with permission from the landfill. Some communities and landfills have household hazardous waste programs to handle potentially hazardous products separately from normal trash. Contact your waste management company, county, public health district, or local landfill operator for safe disposal information.

What should I do with electronics from my business?

Some electronic wastes are considered hazardous due to heavy metal components such as lead. Businesses have the option to donate or recycle electronics. To take advantage of the reduced
regulatory burden provided through donation or recycling, businesses must ensure the programs are legitimately reusing or recycling the electronics. If donation or recycling is not available, businesses must determine if electronics are hazardous waste and manage them according to the hazardous waste regulations in IDAPA 58.01.05.

**For more information**

Visit the EPA’s Sustainable Materials Management of Electronics program to learn more about electronic stewardship and efforts to reduce the impact of electronic waste on the environment [https://www.epa.gov/smm-electronics](https://www.epa.gov/smm-electronics).

For specific questions, contact your DEQ regional office:

- Boise Office: (208) 373-0550
- Coeur d’Alene Office: (208) 769-1422
- Idaho Falls Office: (208) 528-2650
- Lewiston Office: (208) 799-4370
- Pocatello Office: (208) 236-6160
- Twin Falls Office: (208) 736-2190

For general information, visit [www.deq.idaho.gov](http://www.deq.idaho.gov) or call the Hazardous Waste Bureau at the State Office at (208) 373-0502.