

Computer Monitor and Television Recycling

What is the problem?

Televisions and computer monitors can no longer be discarded in the normal household containers or commercial dumpsters, effective April 10, 2001.

Televisions and computer monitors may contain picture tubes called cathode ray tubes (CRT's). CRT's can contain lead, cadmium and/or mercury. When disposed of in a landfill, these metals contaminate soil and groundwater. Some larger television sets may contain as much as 15 pounds of lead. A typical 15-inch CRT computer monitor contains 1.5 pounds of lead. The State Department of Toxic Substances Control has determined that televisions and computer monitors can no longer be disposed with typical household trash, or recycled with typical household recyclables. They are considered universal waste that needs to be disposed of through alternate ways.

CRTs should be stored in a safe manner that prevents the CRT from being broken and the subsequent release of hazardous waste into the environment.

Locations that will accept televisions, computers, and other electronic waste (e-waste):

If the product still works, trying to find someone that can still use it (donating) is the best option before properly disposing of an electronic product. Non-profit organizations, foster homes, schools, and places like St. Vincent de Paul may be possible examples of places that will accept usable products.

Or view the E-waste Recycling List at <http://www.mercedrecycles.com/pdfs/EwasteRecycling.pdf>

Where can businesses take computer monitors, televisions, and other electronics?

Businesses located within Merced County must register as a Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator (CESQG) prior to the delivery of monitors and televisions to the Highway 59 Landfill.

Businesses should call the County Solid Waste Division at 209-385-7388 for information on a registration as a CESQG. There is a cost involved with this service. CESQG businesses are limited to no more than 220 pounds of hazardous waste per month.

Who do I call for additional questions?

Please contact the County Solid Waste Division at (209) 385-7388.

Related links:

California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) - Electronic Product Management - <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Electronics/>

CalRecycle - Electronic Waste Recycling Act of 2003 - <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Electronics/Act2003/>

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