

Computer Monitor and Television Recycling

How do I properly dispose of old televisions or computer monitors ?

If the monitor or television still works, finding someone else that can use it is the best option. Possibly an organization such as a school may accept working monitors and televisions as a donation. In addition, non-profit groups, such as St. Vincent de Paul, may accept functional televisions and computer monitors.

Goodwill Industries, 32 W. Olive, Merced, 384-2586 accepts these items for free.

The Merced County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) site located at the Hwy. 59 landfill in Merced (6040 N. Hwy. 59) and the Billy Wright Landfill, will accept televisions and computer monitors from Merced County residents. The HHW site is open Monday - Friday between 9:00 am to 4:00 pm and Saturday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. The Billy Wright facility is open 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Saturday and 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm on Sunday. Because of storage limitations at the site, a household is limited to one (1) television set and one (1) computer monitor per month delivered to the Household Hazardous Waste site. Because of limited staff at the site, the participant should be able to assist in unloading large televisions or monitors. Unfortunately, at this time we cannot accept televisions and computer monitors at our satellite collection events.

What is the problem ?

The two (2) county landfill sites located on Highway 59 in Merced and Billy Wright Rd., Los Banos can no longer dispose of television and computer monitors in the sanitary landfill. Televisions and computer monitors can no longer be discarded in the normal household trash containers or dumpsters, effective April 10, 2001.

Televisions and computer monitors contain picture tubes called cathode ray tubes (CRT's). CRT's may contain lead, cadmium or mercury and when disposed of in a landfill may contaminate soil and groundwater. Some larger television sets may contain as much as 15 pounds of lead. A typical 15-inch 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.

Is there any risk associated with handling televisions or computer monitors ?

There is no health hazard with using, storing or transporting intact monitors or televisions.

How should unused televisions or computer monitors be stored ?

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

Is there a cost for recycling televisions and computer monitors at the Household Hazardous Waste Site ?

No, there is no cost for households. However, because the recycling costs are unknown at this time, there may be a charge for recycling monitors and televisions in the future.

If I own a business, what do I do with my old computer monitors and/or televisions ?

The options for business owners are similar to householders. However, businesses must be located in Merced County and register as a conditionally exempt small quantity generator (CESQG) prior to the delivery of monitors and televisions to the Household Hazardous Waste site. Businesses should phone the Division of Environmental Health at 723-4753 for information on registration as a conditionally exempt small quantity generator. Businesses may be charged a fee. Businesses are limited to no more than 220 pounds of hazardous waste per month (approximately 6 computer monitors).

Who do I call for additional questions ?

Contact the Division of Environmental Health at (209) 381-1100 or 723-4753.

Where can I obtain additional information ?

Additional information concerning disposal of televisions and computer monitors may be obtained from the following sources:

Contact the Division of Environmental Health at (209) 381-1100 or 777 W. 22nd St. Merced, CA 95340. Pamphlets and handout information is available.

Contact the State Department of Toxic Substances Control web site at

www.dtsc.ca.gov/docs/hwmp/docs/crtsfsv5.pdf

Contact the California Integrated Waste Management Board web site at www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Electronics/

Contact the Electronic Industries Alliance at www.eiae.org/ for recycling and reuse of electronic equipment.

Proper handling and disposal of computer monitors and television sets is a relatively new area of hazardous waste in California. As new information becomes available, the information in this document will be updated. Activities such as collection days for electronic equipment and business drop off points are being considered.