

Disposition of Electronic Devices

Computer monitors, printed circuit boards, and other electronic devices typically contain significant amounts of lead and other metals. Under U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Tennessee solid waste regulations, a solid waste showing specific concentrations of heavy metals, such as lead, is a listed hazardous waste.

Since electronic devices are known to contain significant quantities of lead, unwanted electronic devices such as printed circuit boards, monitors, etc., should be routed through Central Receiving for recycling or resale as usable products rather than disposing in the dumpster.

Batteries containing mercury, cadmium, and other heavy metals should be recycled or disposed through an approved hazardous waste contractor. Physical Plant's Electronics Shop currently accepts certain types of batteries for recycling. Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) can assist with hazardous waste disposal and provide additional guidance on recycling.

Mercury-containing lamps such as fluorescent tubes should remain intact and be recycled rather than being placed in the dumpster. Physical Plant has a system in place to ensure proper recycling of these items.

Individuals who fail to properly identify, handle, and dispose of hazardous waste create an unacceptable liability for the University and place themselves at risk for personal civil and/or criminal liability. Please contact EH&S at 678-4672 for guidance.