



# GUIDE TO RECYCLING YOUR ELECTRONICS AND OTHER HOUSEHOLD ITEMS



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There are so many devices that we use daily, and when we replace one, what can be done with the old device? A United Nations study reported that 53.6 million tons of e-waste were discarded in 2019, and only 17.4 percent of it was disposed of properly. I'll cover options for recycling, disposal, and reuse.

## CELL PHONES AND TABLETS

Most cell phones these days are replaced every 3.5 years on average. That means some people probably trade them in after two years and some keep them for six years. Most common smartphones have battery replacements available to give them a second life after we have upgraded to a newer model. Most stores that sell phones have a recycling box, usually at the front entrance. Apple has a trade-in program that will give you store credit on a future purchase. And many people have kids, grandkids, or siblings that can use a phone, so consider these options, but never throw a cell phone or electronic device in the trash. They contain metals and chemicals such as mercury, lead, arsenic, cadmium, and gallium that if they end up in a landfill, these metals will eventually leach into the water supply. And remember to erase your device and sign out before you recycle or give away any device!

## BATTERIES AND LIGHT BULBS

These also contain toxic metals and elements and should not be thrown away in the trash or recycling bins. Fluorescent and LED bulbs are especially toxic.

## LAPTOPS AND DESKTOP COMPUTERS

Again, like cell phones and tablets, these may find a home with another



family member or child in school. They also contain toxic elements and should not be thrown away. As with cell phones and tablets, make sure to reformat or remove the hard drive from a computer before donating or giving away!

## COFFEE PODS

These are used all the time and are filling up the landfills. If you can, use a mesh reusable pod that you can fill with your favorite ground coffee. If your pods have a triangle with a five inside, they are recyclable! Just empty the grounds and peel off the foil lid and then put the plastic pod in your recycling bin!

## MATTRESSES

These can be recycled as well! The springs can be used again, the wood is ground into mulch and the padding is used for carpet padding.

## INK CARTRIDGES

You can drop your inkjet cartridges off at any office supply store, like Staples or Office Depot, also there are bins located at some Walmart, Target, and Best Buy stores.

You can also mail your empty ink cartridges back to the original

manufacturer.

## TV SETS

Best Buy will take old TV sets up to 32". Larger sets can be donated or taken to a recycling facility for disposal, locations are at bottom of the article.

## AIRPODS

There is a startup company that will replace AirPod batteries and sends you a refurbished set of AirPods with new batteries for just \$60! The Swap Club can be found at [theswapclub.com](http://theswapclub.com)

## WEBSITES TO CHECK TO SELL OLD ELECTRONICS

If you have no one to hand your device down to, check [gazelle.com](http://gazelle.com) and [itsworthmore.com](http://itsworthmore.com), they will give you an amount they will pay for your phone, tablet, or laptop and send you a check a few days later! Amazon will also give you store credit for certain devices and most Amazon devices.

In Naples, you can take electronic devices to two Collier County recycling facilities, one is located at 9950 Goodlette-Frank Road and the other at 2640 Corporate Flight Drive.