

Why Recycle Computers?

Computers are environmentally unsafe when dumped in landfills and are now considered "hazardous waste" along with many other electronics. It is illegal to dispose of electronic hazardous waste in landfills. In 1998, it was estimated that only 11% of the 21 million computer systems that became obsolete in the U.S. were recycled. By 2007, the number of obsolete computers was estimated at 500 million. Recycling computers will divert them from landfills. The largest problem associated with computers is the lead found within the computer monitors, as each picture tube contains roughly 3 pounds of lead.

The hazardous waste materials found in computers include:

- Lead, cadmium and other metals from the cathode ray tubes (CRT) found in monitors and terminals.
- Chromium, lead, beryllium, mercury, cadmium, nickel, zinc, silver and gold from circuit boards found in all components.
- Nickel, cadmium, lithium, mercury and lead from batteries found in CPUs, laptops & portable printers.

When mixed with water or fluid in landfills these materials become toxic liquids and seep into our water tables, rivers, streams, and lakes contaminating our water supply.

Midwest Computer Recyclers

1200 Davis Avenue

South Milwaukee, WI 53172

www.deadcomputers.com

Phone: (414) 541-1716 Fax: (414) 764-2699



Town Hall Phone: 262-377-4509

Computer Drop Site Guidelines

Midwest Computer Recyclers will accept computer equipment dropped off by individuals. No more than 2 systems will be accepted at one time. No servers, terminals or other business equipment will be accepted. Businesses are responsible for arranging disposal of their computer equipment.



Data Destruction

The Town of Cedarburg is not responsible for the information contained on any recycled device. Residents are responsible for all data destruction on their equipment. Some options to erase a computer hard drive are as follows:

1. You may erase the hard drive yourself by downloading a program called "killdisk" from killdisk.com
2. If you prefer certified data destruction, you may drop the computer off at the Midwest Computer Recyclers facility in South Milwaukee. They charge \$5 per drive to perform a certified destruction and mail a certificate back to the customer.

How is the equipment recycled?

Monitors get packed and shipped to go by the truckload to the processors. Computers and other electronics get broken down, sorted, and the scrap sold for recycling. Some components and usable equipment get re-marketed to reputable re-builders to help defray the handling costs.



Preserving Yesterday's Heritage for Tomorrow.

Guide to Recycling Electronics



In an effort to encourage environmental responsibility, the Town of Cedarburg has contracted with a private vendor to recycle nearly all electronics. The Town Recycling Center now offers convenient drop-off containers for these devices. This brochure outlines what electronics may be dropped off.

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Who is Midwest Computer Recyclers?

The Town of Cedarburg began contracting with Midwest Computer Recyclers (MCR) in 2009 to provide electronics recycling services to Town residents. MCR has been recycling computer equipment in Wisconsin since 2001.

There is no cost to the Town for this service, except for a \$25 fee associated with the disposal of a television. Prior to accepting electronics at the Recycling Center, the only option for properly disposing of most electronics was the Veolia Hazardous Waste Facility in Port Washington, which charged a weight-based fee.



Who can use the program?

This service is available to Town of Cedarburg residents only. Town businesses should contact MCR directly for collection options.

Where and When can I drop off my electronics?

The collection containers are located inside the Recycling Center, along the north wall. Electronics will only be accepted during Recycling Center hours. The Recycling Center is open Thursday's between noon and 6pm and Saturday's between 9am and 2pm. There will never be more than six containers at one time. At least one of the containers will be marked "televisions only."

Accepted Items

All electronics listed below will be accepted for NO charge, with the exception of televisions, for which there is a \$25 fee.

Computers

- personal computers (desktops)
- Apple Mac etc.
- all-in-one computers
- computer monitors – all technologies
- laptop computers
- any other PC

Peripherals

- Hard drives, memory, thumb drives, memory cards, etc.
- Network hubs
- UPS and power conditioning equipments
- Scanners
- Keyboards & Mice
- Speakers
- Ink and toner cartridges
- Cables, power supplies

Consumer Electronics

- Stereos & equipment
- VCR & DVD Players
- Camcorders & cameras
- MP3 players
- Microwave Ovens
- Printers including ink-jet, laser, thermal transfer, dot matrix, etc. and fax machines less than 75 lbs.
- Cellular, corded & cordless phones
- Game consoles & games
- Handheld electronic games
- Batteries (rechargeable and lithium)

Items NOT Accepted

Items that are NOT accepted by MCR include the following:

- Refrigerators
- Freezers
- Dehumidifiers
- Air Conditioners
- Floor standing or table top copy machines and printers weighing more than 75 lbs.



Although not accepted by MCR, the "white goods" listed above (with the exception of copiers and printers) can be dropped off at the metal pile in the back of the Public Works yard as in the past. You must first purchase a drop-off tag for these items inside of Town Hall for \$15 for each appliance containing Freon. Those that do not contain Freon may be dropped off for no charge. These "white goods" are recycled by a subcontractor.

TV Disposal Sticker Required

Town residents must purchase a yellow TV disposal sticker prior to dropping off their TV. Monday thru Friday during regular business hours, residents can purchase a sticker for \$25 at Town Hall. When Town Hall is closed, a member of the Town Recycling Crew can sell the disposal sticker. MCR charges a \$25 fee because a different subcontractor charges a fee to remove the lead from the TV screens before it can be recycled.