

Disposal Ban for Computers, Monitors and Televisions

Disposal Ban Effective Jan. 1, 2010



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

Q: What is the disposal ban?

A: Starting Jan. 1, 2010, it is illegal in Oregon to dispose of computers, monitors or TVs in the garbage or at disposal sites such as landfills, transfer stations and incinerators.

Q: What happens if I dispose of a computer, monitor or TV in my garbage, at the curb or at a landfill?

A: If you put these items into your garbage, the garbage hauler will pull them out and leave them with a tag directing you to call the hauler's office for instructions on proper recycling options. Customers may also be able to arrange and authorize payment for special handling of electronic waste. If a customer brings these items to a waste transfer station, they will be directed to the proper location on site for recycling drop-off.

Q: How are fines determined? Will warnings be given to first-time violators?

A: The Oregon law states that anyone who violates the ban could receive a penalty of up to \$500 for each violation. Each computer, monitor or TV that is disposed of improperly is considered a separate violation.

For the law's exact wording, see the amended Oregon Revised Statute/ORS 495 at <http://www.leg.state.or.us/ors/459.html>. Scroll down almost to the very end of the document to the amended wording for 495.995, sub-section (d). In the law's language, "covered electronic device" refers to computers, monitors and TVs only.

DEQ considers many factors when starting an enforcement action. In certain cases,

DEQ may determine that a warning for a first-time violator is appropriate.

Q: What do I do with my unwanted computers, monitors and TVs?

A: Use the Oregon E-Cycles program! The same law that created the disposal ban also created Oregon E-Cycles, which provides free recycling of computers, monitors and TVs at any of the program's 220 collection sites statewide. Anyone can bring seven or fewer computers, monitors and TVs at a time to participating Oregon E-Cycles collection sites and events for free recycling.

To find an Oregon E-Cycles site near you, visit www.oregonecycles.org or call toll-free at 1-888-5-ECYCLE (1-888-532-9253).

If your business has larger volumes of these items, set up recycling services. A partial list of other electronics recyclers in Oregon is on DEQ's website at www.deq.state.or.us/lq/ecycle/consumers/otherrecyclers.htm. You can also contact your city or county solid waste office for additional recycling opportunities in your area.

Q: If I see my neighbor or another person disposing of a computer, monitor or TV, what should I do?

A: The person may be unaware of the disposal ban or the free recycling opportunities through Oregon E-Cycles. Feel free to refer them to the Oregon E-Cycles website at www.oregonecycles.org or the toll-free hotline at 1-888-532-9253 for more information.

If you see illegal dumping of items, call the DEQ office in your area. You will be connected to the appropriate person at DEQ

**Land Quality
Division**
Oregon E-Cycles
811 SW 6th Avenue
Portland, OR 97204
Phone: (503) 229-6303
(800) 452-4011
Fax: (503) 229-6977
Contact: Amy Roth
www.oregon.gov/DEQ

or to your local city or county solid waste official to report the incident.

DEQ numbers to call:

- **Northwest Region:** (503-229-5263, press “0” for receptionist). Includes Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Multnomah, Tillamook and Washington counties.
- **Eastern Region:** (541-298-7255, press “0” for receptionist). Includes Baker, Crook, Deschutes, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Hood River, Jefferson, Klamath, Harney, Lake, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wasco and Wheeler counties).
- **Western Region:** (503-378-8240, press “0” for receptionist). Includes Benton, Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, Lane, Lincoln, Marion, Polk and Yamhill counties.

Q: Who is enforcing this new law? How will it be enforced?

A: DEQ is the agency charged with enforcing the disposal ban. DEQ may penalize facilities or the person disposing of the banned material.

If waste disposal facilities discover e-waste in the waste, they are required to handle the material according to their operations plans. If these banned items are discovered, the facility or hauler may charge the customer, if they know who deposited the waste.

Q: Can I still throw away my cell phone, printer or other unwanted electronic items not covered by this ban?

A: Neither the ban nor Oregon E-Cycles covers computer peripherals (keyboards, mice, etc.) and other types of electronics. DEQ encourages all Oregonians to recycle these items as well.

Oregon E-Cycles collection sites may accept these items for recycling but may charge a fee to do so. If your local E-Cycles collection site does not accept other devices, there are many other businesses that recycle electronics. For a partial list of other electronics recyclers in Oregon, check

DEQ’s website at www.deq.state.or.us/lq/ecycle/consumers/otherrecyclers.htm. You may also contact your city or county solid waste office for additional recycling opportunities in your area.

Q: Why did this disposal ban go into effect?

A: Unwanted electronics – referred to as electronic waste or “e-waste” – is the fastest-growing waste stream in the U.S. Computers, monitors and TVs contain hazardous and toxic substances that can be harmful to our health and pollute our environment if released into the air, water and soil. Banning these materials from being disposed of or incinerated, and providing opportunities to recycle, is important in protecting Oregon’s environment. For more information, visit <http://www.deq.state.or.us/lq/ecycle/consumers/whyimportant.htm>.

For more information

For more information about Oregon E-Cycles, visit DEQ’s Web site at <http://www.oregonecycles.org>.

For questions about Oregon E-Cycles, please email ecycle.info@deq.state.or.us.

Alternative formats

Alternative formats (such as large type or Braille) of this document can be made available. Contact DEQ’s Office of Communications & Outreach at (503) 229-5696, Portland, or call toll-free in Oregon at 1-800-452-4011, ext. 5696, for more information.