

Electrical and Electronic Recycling

Did you know that WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) can be anything with a plug or a battery? You can bring WEEE back to retailers for recycling free of charge when you purchase a new electrical item of similar type and function. Retailers are also obliged to take-back WEEE free of charge on delivery of a new product. Alternatively you can bring WEEE back to your local civic amenity site free of charge.

What is WEEE?

WEEE (waste electrical & electronic equipment) includes not only household electrical equipment such as fridge freezers and washing machines but also small items like hairdryers, electric tools, remote controls, battery operated toys, mobile phones - essentially anything with a plug or a battery.

Many people know that they can recycle their old washing machine but you can also recycle old torches, alarm clocks, electronic toys, calculators & any small electronic devices from the household. Have a good spring clean you would be amazed at



the amount of small WEEE items in drawers, garages, attics etc.,

Wheelie Bin Symbol -

The crossed out wheelie bin symbol means DO NOT dispose of that piece of electrical or electronic equipment in your household waste as to do so may cause health risks and harm the environment.



PRF (Producer Recycling Fund)

The Producer Recycling Fund (PRF) identifies the contribution towards the environmental management cost involved in the collection and recycling of spent/broken/waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE). The full retail price shown by the retailer must be inclusive of the PRF. Some electrical and electronic equipment doesn't have a visible Producer Recycling Fund contribution (e.g. toys, watches, IT and telecommunication equipment), but such WEEE can still be recycled and must be taken back by the retailer free of charge.

Electrical & Electronic Recycling - What can you do?

Re-Use – If your electrical or electronic item is in good working order why not pass it on to a friend or charity that could make good use of it? You can also 'freecycle' on free trade websites such as www.dublinwaste.ie

Retailers Bring Back

- Retailers are required by law to take back waste electrical and electronic equipment from customers free of charge. Take back is on a one-for-one basis only and the appliance being returned must be of a similar type or have performed the same function as the new item purchased. For example, retailers are not obliged to accept a fridge where the consumer has purchased a toaster.

Where goods are bought over the counter, retailers must take back the old product in-store either at the time of sale or within a maximum of 15 days of the date of sale. Where a new appliance or equipment is being delivered, for example a new washing machine, cooker etc., the retailer must take back the old appliance free of charge, and must give at least 24 hrs notice of delivery (48 hrs recommended in the case of appliances that need to be defrosted)-

(i) on the delivery of a new product, provided the

old product has been disconnected from any utilities and is ready for immediate collection, other than WEEE that presents a health and safety risk, (ii) at their premises within a maximum of 30 days from the date of delivery. Whichever take-back option a consumer avails of must be free of charge.

Civic Amenity Sites

Each local authority must accept household WEEE free of charge at its civic amenity facilities from private householders. Local authorities can no longer charge gate fees for WEEE from private householders. Contact your local council for details or visit www.weeeireland.ie for information on your nearest recycling centre and relevant opening hours.

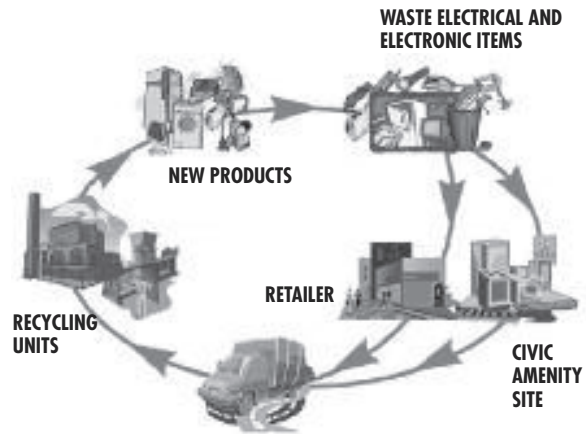
What Happens to the old equipment?

WEEE is taken to specialist processing plants, which are authorised to treat WEEE. The recovery operators ensure that all equipment collected undergoes necessary treatments e.g. removal of CFC gases and other hazardous components such as batteries, mercury containing components. This ensures that WEEE is safely and processed in an environmentally sound way and the maximum amount of base materials can be separated out and recovered. Recoverable materials, such as iron, copper, aluminium, glass and plastic are then reused for the production of new goods.

Why recycle you Electrical and Electronic Equipment?

WEEE no longer disposed of to landfill, but properly managed.

Reduces the harmful effects caused by hazardous materials in WEEE on health and the environment



as WEEE is treated in an environmentally sound manner; this helps in the conservation of natural resources, such as plastics, glass and metals in WEEE are recovered for reuse.

Who is WEEE Ireland?

WEEE Ireland is an approved compliance scheme for WEEE. WEEE Ireland is a not for profit company established by producers of electronic equipment in the Irish market place. Set up August 2005 under new Irish Law in response to the EU directive on WEEE.

It's free to recycle



www.weeeireland.ie

