

Put safety first when disposing of old electronics

Our homes are increasingly being filled with old or unused electronics. According to a recent study, 4 in 5 Ontario households have at least one item they want to get rid of. The problem is disposing of unwanted electronics isn't like getting rid of a pop can or newspaper. Besides being heavy or bulky, electronics may store financial or other personal information that, if ever lost or stolen, could lead to serious consequences.



Follow these steps and protect yourself before getting rid of your computer or handheld electronic device.

Don't leave your data exposed. Make sure to clear your hard drives or wipe your SIM cards before getting rid of your computers or cell phones. For more information on how to delete data, consult your device manufacturer's website or owner's manual, or do a search on the internet for software that can help.

Explore your disposal options. Items thrown in the garbage can end up anywhere. Instead, look for ways to dispose of your equipment safely and responsibly. Ontario residents, for example, can take their old electronic equipment to one of 600 collection sites where they will be recycled or reused according to strict environmental and health and safety standards. Visit www.recycleyourelectronics.ca for more information and do the world a favour, *recycle your electronics*.

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