



Your guide to
recycling all
things electrical

02





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We all love our electronic gadgets – a new games console, hair straighteners, the latest espresso maker - but what do you do with all of the old stuff?

Put it in the bin? **NO!**
Recycle it? **YES!**



This leaflet is your guide to recycling all things electrical and will provide you with all the information you need about recycling everything from computers and fridges through to hair-dryers and toys.

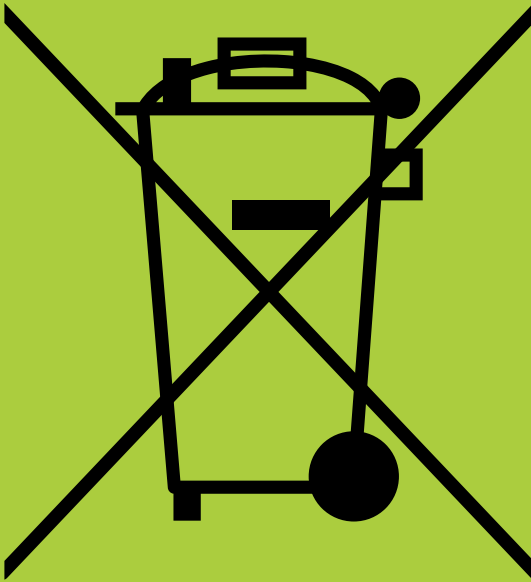
Also included in this leaflet is information on what electrical items you can recycle and where in North London you can take them (see page 8).

“ Over 4,000 producers of electrical goods now support recycling and reuse in the UK. DHL operate a compliance scheme to help producers collect and recycle their share of WEEE. ”

Sioban Wall, DHL WEEE Compliance

WEEE – The Facts

- WEEE stands for Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment
- Anything that requires batteries or a plug to operate is classed as electrical or electronic
- Around 1 million tonnes of WEEE is thrown away in the UK every year. That's the same weight as 21 ships the size of the Titanic!
- In the lifetime of 1 UK resident 3.3 tonnes of electrical waste is created (weeeman.org)
- Over 75% of waste electrical goods end up in landfill
- WEEE is one of the fastest growing waste streams in Europe – growing up to 8% per year
- New regulations came into force in 2007 to improve recycling rates and to make producers pay for treating and recycling end-of-life electrical and electronic equipment.



This is the symbol you will see to indicate that waste electrical and electronic equipment should be separated from general waste and made available for recycling or reuse. If possible, please take items labelled with this symbol to your nearest Reuse and Recycling Centre.

What do the WEEE Regulations mean?

The regulations aim to increase recycling of waste appliances by encouraging consumers to separate them from their general waste and make them available for recycling.

If you are purchasing new equipment, the retailer has to provide a way of taking back the old equipment on a like-for-like basis, so that it can be reused and recycled. This applies to catalogue as well as internet stores. Retailers have two options for taking back old equipment – they may either provide their own 'in-store' take back service or contribute to a national fund that supports local authorities to provide improved facilities at their Reuse and Recycling Centres.

Consumers are encouraged to help waste electrical goods become recycled by returning them to their retailer or to the local authority Reuse and Recycling Centre, rather than just throwing it in the bin.

The regulations also require that the businesses, who import, manufacture or re-brand electrical or electronic equipment in the UK, pay for the recycling of this WEEE from the take-back schemes or local authority Reuse and Recycling Centres.



What can you do?

Reduce: Do you need a new product?

Reuse: Even if you don't want it, maybe there's someone else who does? You could sell it, or donate it to charity. Or if you haven't got time to look into those options, you can take it to your local Reuse and Recycling Centre site where it will be reused or recycled.

Recycle: When you buy a new electrical/ electronic product, find out if the retailer will take back your old one. If they can, they will arrange for it to be recycled. Otherwise they will ask you to take it to your local council Reuse and Recycling Centre. If the item is too big for you to transport, your local council may be able to collect it for you.

Where can you recycle WEEE locally?

WEEE can be taken to any of these Reuse and Recycling Centres in North London :



1. Summers Lane R & R Centre
Summers Lane, North Finchley, Barnet
London, N12 0RF

2. Regis Road R & R Centre
Regis Road, Kentish Town,
London, NW5 3EW

3. Barrowell Green R & R Centre
Barrowell Green,
London N21 3AU

4. Hornsey High Street R & R Centre
35 High Street,
London N8 7QB

5. Park View Road R & R Centre
Park View Road, Tottenham,
London N17 9AY

6. Hornsey Street R & R centre
40 Hornsey Street,
London N7 8HU

7. Kings Road R & R Centre
Kings Road, Chingford,
London E4 7HR

8. Leyton R & R Centre
Gate Way Road (Off Orient Way), Leyton,
London E10 5DY

9. South Access Road R & R Centre
South Access Road, Walthamstow,
London E17 9AY



Which WEEE container do you use?

If you go down to your local recycling centre you will see there are several containers for different types of WEEE:

- A** – Large domestic appliances: e.g. washing machines, electric cookers
- B** – Cooling appliances: e.g. refrigerators, freezers
- C** – Display equipment containing cathode ray tubes or liquid crystal displays (CRTs or LCDs): e.g. TVs, monitors
- D** – Gas discharge lamps: e.g. energy saving light bulbs and fluorescent light tubes
- E** – All other WEEE – this is for anything not covered by the above, such as small household appliances, electrical tools, electronic toys and games, telephones etc.

Batteries can be left in appliances, but if there is a separate container for batteries on site, please recycle them separately.

If you get stuck, don't worry, a member of staff will be able to show you what goes where.



“ Recycling your waste fridge, TV or lawnmower does not cost you a penny in council tax – in fact, it saves money by avoiding expensive landfill charges. ”

Sioban Wall, DHL WEEE Compliance

What happens to WEEE?

After you hand your old product to the retailer, or take it to your local Reuse and Recycling Centre, it will initially be taken to a centre for treatment.

Some WEEE may contain substances that are harmful to a person's health when the product is broken down and the treatment process makes the product safe before it is recycled, such as removing batteries and hazardous substances.

If your old product is in good working order and decent cosmetic appearance it may be sent for reuse, typically organised by charity organisations. You can find out details of local reuse services by logging on to www.recycleforlondon.com and then entering your postcode to see what recycling and reuse services (including charity shops) are available in your local area.

More commonly, old products will be broken down and have their component parts separated, such as the metals and plastics, so they can be recycled to create new products.

How can WEEE be reused?

Some electronic items can be reused if they are in a suitable condition that meets current health and safety requirements or can be repaired to make them usable by someone else.

There are a number of reuse organisations in North London which already collect waste electrical and electronic equipment, mainly fridges and freezers on behalf of local councils. Typically these organisations are charities or social enterprises who provide electrical training opportunities for local people. Usually they will repair and resell what they can and the remainder will then go for recycling.

For more information on reuse and recycling in North London please go to www.nlwa.gov.uk.

Information provided by DHL. For more information, visit www.dhl.co.uk/weee

