

Toy or Tool? E-Waste Disposal Services

Don't be an e-litterbug: Your devices deserve the same respect as your water bottles

By: [Nancy A. Shenker](#)

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What is it? As your business grows and changes, you need new technology. But what happens to your old electronic equipment? New York State has very specific guidelines for recycling electronic waste. An estimated 50 million tons of electronic waste (or e-waste) is produced globally each year. Electronic scrap may contain contaminants such as lead, cadmium, beryllium, or brominated flame retardants.

Your old computers, cell phones, printers, and other devices need a safe and simple "burial ground." Certain electronic equipment (such as computers and televisions) is banned from disposal in "traditional" trash receptacles. Even if you wipe your devices clean of proprietary information, disposing of electronics can be dangerous. Knowing where your unwanted technology is going is critical too. As Time magazine revealed, some recycled equipment just winds up in toxic waste dumps overseas, which simply moves our poison to our global colleagues' land.

What's the value? Disposing of your e-waste responsibly is not only good for your environment, it's good for your brand and ensures that your data doesn't wind up in the wrong hands. Global nonprofit organization [eStewards](#) reviews and accredits companies that offer disposal and recycling services to businesses and consumers. Says Jeffrey Zink, VP of Business Development and Sales of [4th Bin](#), the only e-Stewards-accredited New York City-based company that specializes in e-waste management, "We provide end of life technology management, with e-waste pickups, purchasing equipment that still has value and providing data destruction to all legal standards."

What's the downside? Finding the right company to manage your electronics disposal may take a little time and expense. But e-haste can result in even more e-waste. Look for a company that can not only wipe your devices clean but also find a safe, legal, and environmentally-responsible resting place for them. Ask lots of questions and know your facts.

The bottom line: Be careful when you trash that old computer or smart phone! You may be in a hurry to get it out of your storage room or briefcase, but start doing your research now on disposal before dragging those drives to the dumpster. Illegal or improper e-trash could hurt your company and your planet.

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