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Office Depot Offers Free Computer Recycling

Nationwide stores will accept and recycle unwanted consumer electronics.

Free Computer Recycling

This summer, Office Depot stores will be accepting unwanted and obsolete computer equipment for free recycling.

- [Locate an Office Depot store near you](#)

One item is permitted for drop off per customer per day.



JULY 13, 2004 -- Did you miss out on Denver's computer recycling event last year? If you did, an easy recycling option is now available. Office Depot and Hewlett Packard (HP) have partnered together to launch the country's first free, nationwide, in-store electronics recycling program.

From July 18 through September 6, customers can drop off unwanted electronics from any manufacturer at any of Office Depot's more than 850 retail locations in the continental United States.

"This is the latest example of Office Depot's commitment to implement industry-leading initiatives that encourage the use and distribution of environmentally preferable products and services," said Tyler Elm, director of Environmental Affairs for Office Depot.

Each customer is permitted to drop off one item per day. Items accepted include:

PCs Are Not Very EF

Computer equipment is a complicated assembly of more than 1,000 materials, many of which pose a significant environmental threat if sent to landfills.



Below is a breakdown of some of the materials that make up one typical 60-pound desktop computer:

- Desktop and laptop computers
- Input devices such as mice, keyboards, etc.
- Handhelds and PDAs
- Monitors
- Flat panel displays
- Laser and inkjet printers
- Scanners
- All-in-one devices
- Digital cameras
- Fax machines
- Desktop copiers
- Cell phones
- TVs (27" and smaller only, no consoles)
- TV/VCR combos 27" and smaller

<u>Material</u>	<u>Pounds</u>
Silica	15
Plastics	13.8
Iron	12.3
Aluminum	8.5
Copper	4.2
Lead	3.8
Zinc	1.3
Tin	0.6
Nickel	0.5

No TV consoles, furniture, electric appliances, or other items will be accepted. Participants are responsible for the deletion of all data that may be contained with the computer hardware. Office Depot and HP are not responsible for any data remaining on hard drives or associated media.

By teaming together, the two companies are helping to make the recycling of computer equipment easy and affordable for consumers.

"This unique program with an important partner in the retail channel allows us to bring our recycling capabilities directly to consumers in a remarkably easy-to-use way," said Lee Ray Massey, HP's senior vice president, Imaging and Printing Group - Americas.

Source: [Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition](#).

The program comes at a critical time as our nation's landfills are bulging with discarded computers. Electronics are one of the fastest growing portions of landfill waste, and more than 3.2 million tons of electronic waste is sent to landfills nationwide each year. An estimated 60 million personal computers will be retired in 2005 alone.

Related Links

- [Office Depot's Recycling Program](#)

Unfortunately, electronic waste poses a significant environmental hazard. In fact, consumer electronics constitute 40 percent of the lead found in landfills. According to a [recent study](#) by University of Florida environmental engineers, electronic devices may release enough lead in laboratory tests to be classified as hazardous waste under federal Environmental Protection Agency regulations.

- [Hewlett Packard](#)

- [Denver Recycles](#)

Other toxins are used in the construction of their circuit boards, coatings, resistors, batteries and other parts, including carcinogens and heavy metals like hexavalent chromium, cadmium, mercury, beryllium, nickel, zinc and brominated flame retardants (PBDE).

- [Reduce, Reuse, Recycle](#)

Discarding electronics that contain these materials in landfills means that these toxins can leach into soils and waterways, and become airborne via soil or as particulates from incineration. Participating in this easy recycling program is a great way to have a positive, direct impact on the health of our environment.

- [Plug-In to eCycling \(EPA site\)](#)

- [News Archive: Denver Sets Computer Recycling Record](#)

All products collected from Office Depot stores will be processed at HP recycling facilities in Roseville, California and Nashville, Tennessee. Full program details, terms and conditions, and store locations are available at <http://www.officedepot.com/recycle>.

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