

Oregon E-Cycles Program

Frequently Asked Questions for Retailers and Consumers

Oregon's electronics recycling law, **Oregon E-Cycles** allows consumers to recycle computers, monitors and televisions at no cost. The program is financed by electronics manufacturers and jointly implemented with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. Starting January 1, 2015, the program will include printers and computer peripherals defined as keyboards and mice.

What if I stock a product that is not on the manufacturer compliance list or is listed as “noncompliant?” Only those brands listed as “pending” or “compliant” on the manufacturer compliance list are allowed to be sold in or into Oregon. If a brand is not on the compliance list retailers are not allowed to sell those items. Retailers are encouraged to notify Oregon DEQ and contact the manufacturer directly to alert them that their products are not eligible for sale in or into Oregon until they become compliant. Email ecycle.info@deq.state.or.us. Find the manufacturer compliance list online: www.oregonecycles.org.

What if a brand was listed as compliant when I ordered the stock for my store, but now is listed as noncompliant? Are those products grandfathered? Yes. If that brand was listed at the time it was ordered, it may be sold.

Do the sales restrictions apply to all products made under that brand name? No. Sales restrictions apply only to brands of Oregon E-Cycles covered electronic devices and not to other electronics or products a manufacturer may make.

Covered electronic devices include: computers (laptops and tablets), monitors, and televisions.

In 2015 printers and computer peripherals (keyboards and mice) will be added to covered electronic devices.

“Printer” means a device that:

- is used to make reproductions, or is multifunctional and performs one or more operations such as scanning or faxing in addition to making reproductions
- is designed to be placed on a desk or other work surface and may include an optional floor stand
- uses print technology such as laser, electrographic, ink jet, dot matrix, thermal or digital sublimation.

The term “printer” does not include a device used to make reproductions that:

- is floor-standing
- is a point of sale receipt printer
- is also a calculator
- can also make labels
- is embedded in something other than a covered electronic device.



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www.oregon.gov/DEQ

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How do I meet the point-of-sale information requirement? Oregon DEQ has created outreach materials that meet the customer point-of-sale requirement for retailers. Retailers can be audited to ensure they are providing this information to customers at the time of sale. Retailers may also create their own point-of-sale information. Logos and printed materials are online at www.oregonecycles.org.

I also manufacture covered electronic devices. Are there additional requirements I need to meet? Yes. Visit the manufacturer section of the website, www.oregonecycles.org.

What if a customer has a question or concern about Oregon E-Cycles? If customers have questions or concerns about the program, please direct them to visit the www.oregonecycles.org website or call 1-888-532-9253.

What if the news media contact me about Oregon E-Cycles? Please guide all news media inquiries to Michele Martin, Oregon E-Cycles, DEQ at 503-229-5198.

Consumer Questions

What types of electronics can be recycled through Oregon E-Cycles? Oregon E-Cycles provides free recycling of electronic devices covered by the program including televisions, monitors and computers (desktops, laptops or tablets with a four-inch viewable area or greater measured diagonally).

Starting in 2015 the program will add free recycling of printers and computer peripherals (keyboards and mice).

How do I find Oregon E-Cycles collection sites? Search www.OregonEcycles.org or call 1-888-532-9253.

Are all locations that collect or recycle electronics part of Oregon E-Cycles? No. Locations affiliated with Oregon E-Cycles will display the Oregon E-Cycles logo, indicating their participation in the program.

Why is electronics recycling important? Unwanted televisions, monitors, computers, printers and computer peripherals, referred to as electronic waste, e-waste or e-cycling, is the fastest growing waste stream in the U.S.

- **E-cycling conserves natural resources.** Electronics contain valuable materials including copper, gold and aluminum that can be recycled and used in new products. Recycling these materials prevents the need to extract virgin materials, conserving natural resources.

According to a study by the U.S. Geological Survey, one metric ton of e-waste from computers contains more gold than that recovered from 17 tons of gold ore.

- **E-cycling reduces greenhouse gas emissions.** Using recycled materials consumes less energy than using virgin materials to make new products. Because less energy is consumed, fewer greenhouse gases are emitted.
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that recycling one million computers prevents the release of greenhouse gases equivalent to the annual emissions of over 17,000 cars.



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- **E-cycling protects our health and environment.** Electronics contain toxic materials such as lead, cadmium and mercury. E-cycling protects our health by keeping these toxics out of the environment. Even small amounts of these toxics can be dangerous if released into the air, water and soil. E-cycling protects our health and environment by keeping these substances out of our landfills and incinerators.

According to the EPA, 40 percent of lead and 70 percent of other toxics found in landfills, including mercury, cadmium and polybrominated flame retardants are from electronics.

Is there a charge or fee to recycle the specified covered electronic devices through Oregon E-Cycles? No. Participating Oregon E-Cycles collection sites must accept televisions, monitors and computers, and starting January 1, 2015 printers and computer peripherals. Anyone can bring seven or fewer items to a collection site at a time. There may be a charge for pick-up, curbside services or other premium services.

What if I have more than seven items to recycle at one time? If you are a household, small business, or nonprofit 501(c)(3) with 10 or fewer employees, you may bring more than seven televisions, monitors and computers (printers and computer peripherals starting in 2015) to a participating collection site at one time. You may be asked to verify your status as one of these entities. Please call collection sites ahead of time to inquire about any needed documentation and to ensure they have the capacity to handle your items. *If you are not one of these entities, collection sites may charge you for covered electronic devices over the seven item limit.*

What about other electronics? Can they be recycled, too? If a local Oregon E-Cycles collection site does not accept other devices, there are many other businesses that recycle electronics. Some may charge a fee, depending upon the item. Residents in the Portland metro area can call **Metro's Recycling Information Hotline at 503-234-3000**. Otherwise contact a local solid waste office for a recycler.

How can I be sure that my electronics are recycled responsibly? Oregon E-Cycles requires participating recyclers to follow, at a minimum, environmental management practices established by Oregon DEQ. These practices require recyclers to demonstrate that their programs do not harm human health and the environment.

How can I prepare my electronics for recycling? What about data security? Recyclers accepted into the Oregon E-Cycles network recycle responsibly. Some sites also have reuse programs. Consider the following:

- **Erase hard drives.** It is your responsibility to clear your data off of your computer. Oregon E-Cycles assumes no liability for personal or confidential information left on computers. It is recommended that you erase all data before recycling. Reformatting your drive or deleting files does not destroy your data.
- **Only bring electronic devices covered by the program.** Participating collection sites may accept other devices, but may charge a fee to recycle them. Beginning January 1, 2015, printers and computer peripherals (keyboards and mice) are covered by Oregon E-Cycles for free recycling.
- **Call ahead if you have large or heavy items.** If you have large or heavy items (console televisions, for example), please call ahead to ensure the collection site has capacity to handle your items.



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Be energy efficient. Take advantage of energy-saving power management features on your electronics and turn off or unplug them when not in use. (Electronics use energy even when just plugged in.) Prolong the life of your electronics by maintaining them. Consult your owner's manuals for more information on proper maintenance.

Choose energy efficient products. Look for the [ENERGY STAR](#) label and other features like the use of recycled and recyclable materials. Ask retailers about environmentally friendly options and check [EPEAT](#) for a list of computers that meet environmental criteria.

Which manufacturers are complying with the law? Covered electronic devices from manufacturers that have met all requirements under Oregon E-Cycles can be found online at www.oregoncycles.org.

What are "premium services?" Premium services are services that are offered by participating recycling programs under Oregon E-Cycles *in addition* to the standard collections sites and services. Examples of "premium services" include pick-up services. Recycling programs may charge for premium services.

What is product stewardship? Product stewardship is an environmental management strategy in which all parties involved in the design, production, sale and use of a product take responsibility for minimizing the product's environmental impact throughout all stages of the product's life. The greatest responsibility lies with whoever has the most ability to affect the life cycle environmental impacts of the product.

Oregon DEQ supports product stewardship principles and the product stewardship approach as a way to:

- Conserve valuable natural resources
- Increase reuse and recycling
- Reduce overall environmental impacts from the manufacture, use and disposal of products
- Reduce toxics and waste generation
- Shift the cost of managing waste products at the end of their useful life from government to those who produce and use the products

Alternative formats

Alternative formats (Braille, large type) of this document can be made available. Contact DEQ's Office of Communications and Outreach, at 503-229-5696, or toll-free in Oregon at 1-800-452-4011.



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