

## Disposition of Electronic Devices\*

Electronic devices typically contain significant amounts of lead or other heavy metals. If these devices contain sufficient concentrations of heavy metals, they are classified as hazardous waste by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State of Tennessee. Improper disposal of these items can harm the environment and result in significant civil and/or criminal penalties; therefore, placing them in the trash is forbidden.

Broken, surplus, obsolete, outdated, or otherwise unwanted electronic devices must be routed through Physical Plant's Surplus Department for recycling or resale as usable products. Complete a work order in the [WORQ system](#) to request pick-up of these unwanted items. Laboratory apparatus and other devices that may have contained hazardous materials (e.g., chemicals, biological agents, and/or radioactive material) must have a completed [Equipment Release Form](#) affixed; equipment without the properly completed form will not be removed by Physical Plant.

Batteries containing mercury, cadmium, lead, other heavy metals, and/or corrosive liquids (e.g., sulfuric acid) must be recycled or disposed through an approved hazardous waste contractor. Physical Plant accepts certain types of batteries for recycling. Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) can assist with batteries requiring disposal as hazardous waste.

Intact mercury-containing lamps (e.g., fluorescent bulbs) should be recycled promptly after removal from service rather than being placed in the dumpster or laid aside. Physical Plant accepts intact mercury-containing lamps for recycling.

Individuals who fail to properly identify, handle, and dispose of hazardous waste create an unacceptable liability for the University and place themselves at risk for personal civil and/or criminal liability.

Additional information is available from the following sources:

- [Guide to Hazardous Waste Management](#)
- [Handling and Disposal of Mercury-containing Lamps](#)
- [Hazardous Waste Disposal Policy \(UM 1759\)](#)
- [Recognizing Hazardous Waste](#)
- [Disposal of Surplus Property \(BF10215\)](#)
- [Environmental Health and Safety Office](#)

\*Electronic devices are considered to be computers, including tablets and other handheld devices; computer components and peripherals (e.g., hard drives, power supplies, CPUs, memory, mice, keyboards, connecting cables, monitors); televisions; telephones and cell phones; scanners; printers; fax machines; CD and DVD players; hair dryers; radios; stereo/audio equipment; game consoles; other entertainment and household electronic devices and appliances, including microwave ovens; and similar devices, including laboratory instruments.