



***Recycling Old Tech
& Media
Shelton CT Senior
Computer Club***



www.junkluggers.com/e-waste-recycling.html



portal.ct.gov



January 2021



guides.brit.co/guides/destroy-a-hard-drive

Why Think About This Now?

Because you probably have boxes of electrical and electronic junk going back decades that you will never use again.

Because there's probably old media in that pile that you would like to see again, maybe share with your family. Soon it may fail, or be unreadable.

Because some of it might be worth money or belong in a museum.

Because hoarding is hoarding, whether it's expired food or last decade's smartphones. Why not lighten your load?

And it's a perfect New Year's Resolution!

Discarding Old Tech & Media Safely

Don't put it in your household trash! New and old tech items, including rechargeable batteries, contain unpleasant and poisonous chemicals and metals.

Home Depot will recycle batteries.

Services such as Junkluggers will help with large amounts.

Best Buy will recycle laptops, phones, etc. and some appliances.

Town transfer stations (dumps) have reserved areas for tech disposal where you can leave your items.

Protecting Your Privacy

All forms of storage media in electronic devices can contain personal and private information that may be retrieved.

Do not discard, sell or donate items unless you are certain that the information has been properly erased or destroyed. Instructions for erasing phone models can be found on the Internet. Several companies sell erasure apps for hard drives, solid state drives and flash drives.

When in doubt, remove storage media and physically destroy it prior to recycling at a transfer station. Scrapped media still has material contents that need special handling, so please dispose of it properly.

Digital storage systems and media

Flash media, floppy disks, Iomega Zip drives, CDs, DVDs, laserdiscs, digital tape, ancient hard drives etc.

Review files you wish to keep.

- If a hard drive is in a working PC, Mac or laptop, plug in a state-of-the-art external hard drive or flash drive to copy the files. If the drive is not installed, use an external adapter.
- Forget laserdiscs.
- 5 ¼" floppies and digital computer tape will need to be sent for copying to a vendor.
- 3.5" floppy and CD/DVD to USB readers are available, used ZIP readers are expensive.
- Don't bother with RAM – there's nothing stored!
- If you don't feel like an expert, it is better to destroy rather than erase unneeded flash memory.

Forgot your passwords?
recovery *may* be possible.



Hard drive



Floppy disks



ZIP disk & reader



Compact Flash

Smart Media

SD, Micro SD

USB Flash

Peripherals

CRT monitors, printers, keyboards, mice and trackballs, numeric keypad extenders, speakers, and so on.

- Keep a favorite spare USB keyboard and USB mouse. Don't keep ones with older connectors such as DIN, mini-DIN and serial.



DIN, Mini-DIN



Serial



USB

- Maybe keep a nice set of old speakers.
- Recycle everything else.



But at least no one would steal this from your office.



New keyboards are inexpensive.



You can't even plug it into a modern PC!



New printers are inexpensive.
The profit is in the ink!



They never really sounded great.

Old desktop/laptop computers, servers, tablets & phones

Really old devices may not be able to boot at all, and may not have the resources or support to be upgraded.



Maybe a museum piece?

After you have copied the stored information, you can

- Junk the system by removing the storage drive(s)
or
- Securely erase the storage drives and try to load a new OS
- Old Hardware – as early as 2000 – can support Linux
- BUT! PCs made before 2009 have hardware security issues
- PCs later than 2009 can be converted into Chromebooks and donated to schools!
- Old phones typically can't be upgraded and won't support new networks. But before you say goodbye, check online to see if your model is selling. Believe it or not, people are collecting the first generation iPhones and iPods.



Really old phones can't work with newer networks, e.g. 4G LTE, 5G. There may be no more apps. They can't be upgraded!

Old Game systems and Music Players

Original Atari Consoles, Nintendo systems and other brands are collectible.

Original game cartridges, especially if still boxed and wrapped, increase the value of the console.

Apple first generation iPods are also collectible.

If you have any sort of games and players:

- Check prices online to see if these are worth trying to sell.
- If not, then erase anything stored, and recycle them.



Atari 2600

<https://www.funstockretro.co.uk/news/a-brief-history-of-the-atari-2600/>



Nintendo 1st generation

<https://www.dkoldies.com/original-nes-2-player-pak/>



First Generation iPod

Cables & Connection Adapters

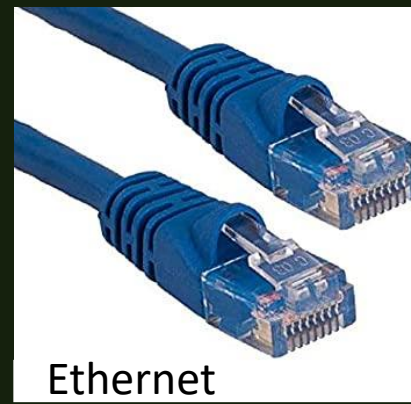
Our wireless world is clogged with wires!

You should keep:

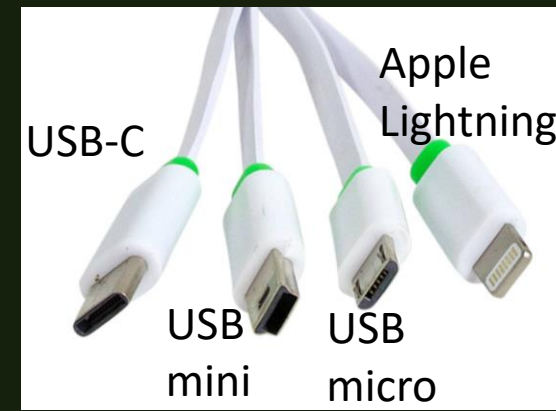
- One each of ethernet cables, stereo cables, USB-A to USB-B, SVGA monitor.
- One or two each of USB-C, USB mini, USB micro, iPod, Firewire, Lightning.
- All HDMI and DVI cables.

Consider recycling all of:

RCA phono cables, parallel and Centronics printer cables, serial cables, SCSI cables and more.



Ethernet



USB-C

USB mini

USB micro

Apple Lightning



1/8" stereo



Apple Firewire



SVGA



USB A to B



RCA Phono



iPod/early iPhone



HDMI



D V I



Parallel or Serial

Centronics



Serial



SCSI



SCSI

Communications & network stuff

Routers, Wi-Fi accessories, HomePlug (Ethernet over the AC wires) adapters, bridges and switches.

The price and features of networking equipment improves continuously, so older devices lose value. Wi-Fi standards G & N surpass old A & B tech.

Keep

- A basic switch if you have one, is handy to add more wired Ethernet devices.

Return

- Leased routers that should have been returned!

Recycle

- Underpowered wireless repeaters.
- Obsolete, slow, insecure Wi-Fi access points.



Ethernet switches may be handy



Leased/rented routers are not your property



Simple repeaters don't really speed up Internet



Old models are way behind the technology curve

Analog storage systems and media

8mm and Super 8 film reels, vinyl records, audio wire reels, ¼" reel-to-reel tape, audio cassettes, video cassettes (Digital Video Cassette, VHS and BetaMax), and more.

- Most DIY systems for transferring analog materials result in poor quality. Unless you are willing to experiment, it's best to send these to a service for copying.
- New digital copies of commercial music and movies are better than copying.
- Recycle whatever's left. Note that there is some resale value for 8mm and Super8 reels and audio tape reels. If you have interesting footage, you might be able to sell it to a stock film library.

Movie



Video



Reel-to-reel Audio



Cassette

Power Adapters

This category includes transformers and “wall warts” that may plug directly into outlets, or be provisioned with one or two cords.

Industries are working to standardize on USB type power supplies but many devices require other voltages such as 3, 4.5, 6, 7, 9, 12 and so on.

If you are not a geek:

- Keep a few extra phone-compatible chargers.

If you want more spares:

- Keep a few 5 and 12 volt DC supplies. Compare their plug connectors to the ones you are commonly using around the home.

Recycle the rest.



Printed Media

Magazines, letters, brochures, drawings, local events, and all those pictures you took...

- Nearly everyone owns a scanner as part of their printer. Get to know how to use yours!
- Instead of the scanner, you can use your phone to get good pictures. Just work on the lighting until you are happy.
- Alternatively you can easily find a service to do this for you.
- Even if the items have faded or yellowed, they can be color corrected with simple apps!



It's time to move away from paper albums. Browse memories on a PC, Mac, phone or tablet. Share them over the Internet!

Is There Any Resale Value for Old Tech and Media?

Maybe! Check eBay and other sales sites to see what is selling. Any of these items might have value at one time or another especially if they were rare or unusual models.

Here are some examples:

- Old movies¹ and film projectors, and rare camera models
- Vintage game consoles and game cartridges
- Vintage computers, music players of historical significance²
- Antique radios and parts, vacuum tubes and early transistors
- Rare commercial records, films and videos
- Old electrical instruments, especially if they look bizarre
- Rare and/or unusual tools, quack medical devices
- Power adapters for current model PCs and Macs
- Photos, magazines and newspapers of celebrities, historical events, news

You might also consider donations to a museum or school

If something you have seems interesting and you don't recognize it, ask around, and also try an image search in Google!

Useful Recycle Links (examples: not an exhaustive list)

[Connecticut State Directory of disposal sites](#)

[Junkluggers locations in Connecticut](#)

[Best Buy Recycling](#)

[Home Depot Recycling](#)

[Physically destroy a hard drive](#)

[Software to erase a hard drive](#)

[How to erase a smartphone](#)

[Valuing and selling an old smartphone](#)

General Information Links

[Harmful Chemicals in Computer and Electronic Waste](#)

[The Problems with Erasing Flash Drives](#) (applies to all types)

[Examples of old tech that may be worth money](#)

[More examples of old tech that may be worth money](#)

[How to use Google Image Search](#)