

Universal waste is a collective term for discarded electronic devices, gadgets, light bulbs, and appliances. Each year, millions of tons of universal waste end up in domestic and international landfills. To help reduce stress on the environment, USC is continually optimizing its management and recycling of universal waste.

ARE UNIVERSAL WASTES HAZARDOUS?

Universal wastes have a lower health risk to individuals and to the environment than other hazardous wastes. State and Federal regulations identify what products are defined as universal wastes and provide simple rules for handling and recycling.



Examples of common universal wastes are:



- Mercury switches, thermostats, thermometers
- Batteries (AA, AAA, C, D, Button)
- Fluorescent light tubes and bulbs
- High intensity lamps
- Cathode Ray Tubes (CRT)
- Non-empty aerosol cans



WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH MY OLD ELECTRONIC DEVICE?

Recycle your electronic device. Recycle all universal waste. It is estimated that only 12.5% of universal waste is being recycled worldwide.



HOW CAN I MINIMIZE THE AMOUNT OF UNIVERSAL WASTE GENERATED?

Reduce

- Resist purchase of the latest electronic devices.
- Upgrade functional computers and electronic devices wherever possible rather than replace them.
- Choose durable, long-lasting products and avoid the disposable, non-recyclable ones.



WHAT I NEED TO KNOW...

- Universal wastes may **NOT** be disposed of in the trash!
- **ALWAYS** reuse/recycle universal waste unless damaged or broken.
- Contact EH&S at hazmat@usc.edu or (323) 442-2200 for information on proper waste management and disposal or for requesting supplies.
- Request a universal waste pick-up online: <http://tiny.cc/hazWaste-PU>

Reuse

- Don't simply dispose of old electronics. Printers, monitors, or other equipment that is still functional and not damaged may be offered to USC Surplus Sales for resale.

Recycle

- Request a universal waste pick-up online: <http://tiny.cc/hazWaste-PU>.
- Contact Surplus Sales to schedule a pick up of your reusable equipment.

Additional Information

Electronic Recyclers International
www.triplepundit.com/2015/08/e-waste-stream-growing-can/

California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 4.5
<https://www.dtsc.ca.gov/LawsRegsPolicies/Title22/>

