

# What Do I Do With It Now?

## A Quick Guide to Recycling



## Household

### Appliances and Other Scrap Metal

Recycle scrap metal by contacting local scrap dealers, your waste hauler, or a company that collects, removes, or transports waste. To locate potential options, conduct an internet search for "scrap metals" or "recycling centers" near you.



Note that some may require that refrigerant (commonly known as Freon) be removed from certain appliances by a certified technician before they will accept them.

### Paper, Cardboard, Bottles, Cans



Contact your local government, waste hauler, or landfill to find recycling centers, or conduct an internet search for "recycling centers" or "waste paper" to locate a center near you.

### Brush, Leaves, and Lawn Clippings

Contact your local government, waste hauler, or landfill about mulching and composting options for yard trimmings. To learn how to practice mulching or start your own compost pile at home, order or download a free copy of *the Guide to Yard Care* (GI-465) at [takecareoftexas.org/resources/guide-lawn-care](http://takecareoftexas.org/resources/guide-lawn-care). Additionally, a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office may be able to assist you. Learn more at [agrilifeextension.tamu.edu](http://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu).



### Clothing, Toys, Household Goods, etc.



Donate gently used items. Check with local charities and organizations to find a donation center.

## Electronics

(computers, printers, televisions, cell phones, etc.)

Texas law requires computer and television manufacturers to offer opportunities for consumers to recycle these electronics. You can find your computer brand's recycling program through [TexasRecyclesComputers.org](http://TexasRecyclesComputers.org) and learn about recycling your television at [TexasRecyclesTVs.org](http://TexasRecyclesTVs.org). Your local government, retailers (like Best Buy or Staples), waste hauler, or landfill may also offer electronics recycling options. Some charities or local thrift stores may accept electronic equipment that can be repaired or salvaged. Additionally, you can conduct an internet search for "electronics recyclers near me" for a list of potential options in your area. For cell phone recycling options, visit [call2recycle.org](http://call2recycle.org) or consider donating the device if it is in working condition.



## Household Hazardous Waste

(some paints, cleaners, pesticides, etc.)

Every community has different HHW recycling and disposal opportunities. Visit the [TCEQ HHW Contacts page at \[tceq.texas.gov/p2/hhw/contacts.html\]\(http://tceq.texas.gov/p2/hhw/contacts.html\)](http://TCEQ HHW Contacts page at tceq.texas.gov/p2/hhw/contacts.html) to see if your city or county has ongoing or upcoming collection opportunities. If there are no resources available in your area, most HHW can be legally disposed of with your regular trash—with a few exceptions. Learn more at [tceq.texas.gov/p2/hhw/hhw.html](http://tceq.texas.gov/p2/hhw/hhw.html).



## Pharmaceuticals and Sharps

You can safely throw away most medicines in your household trash after making the drugs unappealing to others. For example, you can crush the medication and mix it with cat litter or spent coffee grounds. Also, contact your solid waste department to inquire about take-back programs or single-day



collection events. To learn how to properly dispose of used syringes, read *Disposing of Syringes from Households: Do's and Don'ts* (GI-418) at [https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/waste\\_permits/msw\\_permits/medwaste/medwaste-sharpspharm](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/waste_permits/msw_permits/medwaste/medwaste-sharpspharm)

## Rechargeable Batteries

Do not throw rechargeable batteries in the trash.

Rechargeable batteries are commonly found in cordless power tools, cellular and cordless phones, laptop computers, camcorders, digital cameras, and remote-control toys. Several companies will accept your old rechargeable batteries. Visit [call2recycle.org](http://call2recycle.org) to locate the closest battery drop-off location. For more information on battery recycling, visit the U.S. EPA's webpage at [epa.gov/recycle/used-household-batteries](http://epa.gov/recycle/used-household-batteries).



## Toner and Ink Cartridges



Many manufacturers and office supply stores offer free recycling for inkjet and toner cartridges. You can also buy remanufactured or refillable cartridges.

## Automotive

### Auto Batteries

(lead-acid)

Discarding or improperly disposing of a lead-acid battery is illegal. Texas law requires businesses that sell lead-acid batteries to accept your old battery when you purchase a new one. Ask your local auto parts store or auto service shop if they will accept extra batteries for recycling.



### Antifreeze

Some auto service centers may accept used antifreeze for recycling; search for "oil change & lube" or "auto repair & service" to find a service center near you.



## Used Oil and Used Oil Filters

(includes transmission fluids, brake fluids, power steering fluids, and greases)

Texas law prohibits dumping used oil on land or into storm drains or waterways. It is also illegal to use it as a dust suppressant. Some communities have collection centers for used oil and properly drained oil filters.

Also, some auto service centers may accept used oil in quantities of less than 5 gallons, and sometimes even used filters from the public; search for "oil change & lube" or "auto repair & service" to find a center near you.



## Tires



When you purchase new tires, ask if the tire retailer will take your old tires. Most tire dealers or auto shops will accept tires for a fee. A few municipalities will accept a limited number of scrap tires from citizens at no charge. You can also reach out to your local HHW collector to find out if they accept used tires.

## Agricultural

Visit <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/p2/hhw/about.html> for information on proper disposal and recycling of empty plastic pesticide containers.

*\*The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) is designated as the state's lead agency in the regulation of pesticide use and application.*



## Other Options



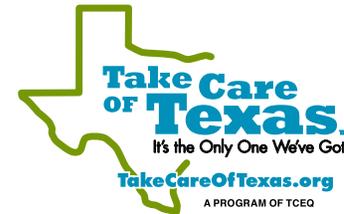
Contact the department of solid waste, sanitation, or public works serving your area and ask for the recycling contact.



Conduct an internet search for recycling, scrap, waste, or an individual material or product.



Contact waste haulers or nearby landfills about potential recycling options.



How is our customer service?  
[www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/customersurvey](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/customersurvey)

**Texas Commission on Environmental Quality**  
Environmental Assistance Division

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Scan the QR code to find even more resources  
on recycling in your community!