



NEW LAW FOR RECYCLING TOXIC ELECTRONICS

On February 9th, a new law went into effect that restricts disposal of certain toxic and electronic goods via the regular trash. The law applies to common batteries, which contain heavy metals and corrosives, fluorescent light tubes with mercury vapor, thermostats and thermometers with mercury, and many electronic products with circuit boards. These items, called Universal Wastes, have been deemed hazardous by the Department of Toxic Substances Control and must be kept separate from the trash so they are not put in landfills.

1. Household batteries are already collected weekly with curbside programs if sealed in a plastic bag and placed next to and outside of the Recycling cart. Many retailers will also take back expired batteries for recycling as well as the County's Central Household Hazardous Waste Facility near the airport.
2. Some of the smaller electronic items are currently recyclable in the City's 3-Cart program and may continue to be recycled there with the mixed recyclables (yellow-lid cart), including: answering machines, small radios, cell phones and telephones (remove batteries and collect separately in a sealed plastic bag for recycling).
3. Larger items such as printers, VCRs, computers and microwaves can be placed at the curb during the annual neighborhood Clean-Sweep or taken to one of the County's drop-off facilities to be recycled: [North County Recycling Center](#), [Lovelace Material Recovery and Transfer Station](#).
4. More toxic, breakable lamps must be taken to the County's [Household Hazardous Waste Consolidation Facility](#) located near the airport to be recycled, including: mercury thermostats, high intensity discharge lamps, sodium vapor lamps and fluorescent lamps.

For more information on electronics recycling, visit the Department of Toxic Substances Control at <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/>.

