



i can make a difference

Remember the 3Rs—Reduce, Reuse and Recycle
PLEASE do not throw E-Waste in garbage; it contains toxic materials.

Reduce: The best way to combat E-waste is to not create it. Resist the urge to replace electronics. Use them for as long as you can.

Reuse: Your old gadget may seem like junk to you, but there are many charitable organisations that refurbish and reuse it. Donate to those who need it.

Sustainable Products: Buy green products; Sturdy and upgradable.

At work: Push for Green procurement and a good E-waste disposal policy.

Take Responsibility: Demand a take-back programme from the brand. Return old gadgets for recycling.

Recycle: Find a recycler who follows high environmental standards. Get your gadget recycled. It has many valuable resources.

'Tomorrow' is a flower in the seed called 'today'.
We can help make the world a better place

Have you heard about E-waste?

E-waste (Electronic and electrical waste) is the trash that you generate when you discard broken, obsolete or surplus electronic and electrical gadgets. It includes end-of-life gadgets like computers, printers, phones, T.V., refrigerators, toasters, toys, shavers and many other gadgets that run on electricity. Rapid changes in technology, lower costs and increasing demand for electronics has resulted in E-waste growing rapidly everywhere.

Do we have laws on E-waste in India?

E-waste Rules will come into force in 2012 and stipulate how E-waste must be disposed.

Consumers are responsible for the proper disposal of E-waste generated by them and must hand over their used gadgets to authorized collectors, dismantlers or recyclers. You can also give it back to the companies who sold them to you.

The producers of electronic and electrical gadgets are required to ensure collection and recycling of E-waste. They have to set up "take-back" systems across the country.

Why should we be concerned?

In most instances, what we see is the outside of a gadget. A whole bouquet of heavy metals, base metals and other chemical compounds lurk inside your seemingly innocent laptop, mobile or TV. E-waste dangers stem from ingredients such as lead, mercury, arsenic, cadmium, beryllium, barium, chromium etc. Many electrical products include various flame-retardant chemicals that might pose potential health risks. Some of these materials are known to cause serious health problem to the human body. When these elements are safely encased in our refrigerators and laptops, they aren't much of an issue. Problems arise when devices break – intentionally or accidentally. If E-waste is disposed in landfills, burned outdoors or recycled in other inappropriate ways, toxic substances can contaminate the air, water and soil, affecting all the living creatures.

Recycling Realities

Have you ever thought what happened to the old fridge or vacuum cleaner or music player you discarded?

In India, most E-waste ends in the informal or the unorganized sector. In city bylanes and smaller towns, a large number of poor people, including women and small children, break open these gadgets, to recover valuable parts and materials. With no protective equipment and poor working conditions, these workers are exposed to a cocktail of toxic chemicals and suffer physical injuries, chronic ailments like asthma, skin and eye diseases and many other life threatening diseases.

Environmentally unsafe recycling practices also result in discharges and emissions that contaminate air, water and soil. They pollute our planet and affect us all.

Why should we recycle E-Waste?

We have ONE PLANET and limited natural resources. If we use it all up, there will be nothing left for future generations!

Can I make a difference?

Yes, you can!

Reduce

Buy gadgets only when required. Extend the life of your gadgets by upgrading them if possible. Ensure effective preventive maintenance, proper handling and timely repairs. When buying, look for green and energy efficient devices.

Reuse

Old gadgets may seem like trash to you, but they can be repaired and refurbished. Donate your used electronics to charitable organizations that refurbish and reuse.

Recycle

Discard your obsolete gadget only to those recyclers who follow high environmental standards. You will help reduce adverse environmental impact. Valuable metals like copper, aluminum, gold and silver can also be recovered through proper recycling.



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