



Recycling Your Electronics

Which Electronics Companies Will Take Back Your Old Computer, TV, or Other Electronics?

Electronics TakeBack Coalition

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Before you buy that new computer or TV, think about what you plan to do with your old one. If it still works and you think someone else can use it, then you might want to donate it to a reputable reuse organization. (Make sure the organization is accepting donations for local reuse – and not sending them overseas.)

But if that's not an option for you, some of the electronics manufacturers offer recycling programs that you can use, often for free. Some will give you some trade-in credit towards new purchases. This report tells you who offers what services, how to use them, and how to get free recycling.

Note: The information in this report is current as of the date shown above. Companies do change their takeback programs from time to time, so be sure to verify details on the company websites (links are included inside) or check for updated versions of this report on our website at: www.electronicstakeback.com.

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Takeback Programs At-A-Glance

These programs are described in more detail in the following pages. But this is a quick summary of how to use the manufacturers' consumer takeback programs.

Company	What will they take back for FREE in the US?	What do they take back for a fee or trade-in or other deal?	How it works
Apple	Any brand computer or monitor as long as you are buying a new Apple computer/monitor from Apple directly (not through resellers)		You pack and ship for free to their recycler using coupon they email you after purchase. Only good for 30 days.
	iPods – you get a discount towards new purchases		Take your old iPods to Apple stores.
Dell	Any Dell branded product at any time. Any brand computer when consumers buy a new Dell (on home/home office website).	Business products, through their asset recovery program.	You pack and ship for free to their recycler. Request free shipping via Dell website or select free recycling option when you buy your new Dell.
Gateway	Nothing	Gateway takes back many products for a fee. Some may get trade-in credit.	You pack and ship. Use their Dealtree web portal to estimate costs and trade in credit.
HP	Nothing	<u>HP Customers:</u> Consumers who recycle old products can get credit toward future HP purchases – which offset most/all of the recycling cost. <u>Anyone:</u> HP takes back many products for a fee from \$13 to \$34 including shipping. Some may get trade-in credit.	You pack and ship to their recycler, after paying the fee (which covers shipping) online. Use their website to estimate any trade-in credit.
Lenovo	All Lenovo (and some IBM) monitors, laptops, desktops, phones.	They will offer money back for other brands on some laptops, phones, flat panel monitor, and desktops.	Use their online calculator to see if you get money back.
LG	Consumer electronics with the LG, Zenith and GoldStar brand names.	They will take back any company's brand of consumer electronics for a fee.	You take old products to their designated collection sites.
Panasonic	Nothing – no national program.		
Samsung	All consumer electronics with the Samsung brand name on it	They will take back any company's brand of consumer electronics for a fee.	Program begins Oct 1, 2008.
Sharp	Nothing – no national program.		
Sony	Anything with Sony's name on it.	They will take back any company's brand of consumer	You take old Sony products to their designated collection

		electronics for a fee. Sony also has a trade-in program for notebook computers, cameras and camcorders, giving credit towards future Sony purchases. You pack and ship. Use their website trade-in estimator.	sites.
Toshiba	Any Toshiba notebook computer for free.	Toshiba takes back any company's notebooks for the cost of shipping.	You pack and ship to Dealtree via the Toshiba website. Shipping is free on Toshiba notebooks.
Vizio	Nothing – no national program.		

APPLE'S COMPUTER TAKEBACK PROGRAM

How to get FREE recycling from Apple

Apple offers free takeback and recycling to consumers who buy a new or "Apple Certified refurbished" computer or monitor from Apple stores, Apple phone sales or Apple's website. (This doesn't work for purchases from resellers, or in Hawaii or Alaska.)

When you purchase your Apple on-line, you can request recycling on the verification of the order page. If you buy at an Apple store or on the phone, tell the sales person you want to do this.

Apple will send you an email with instructions for how to pack and ship your old equipment to Apple's recycling center. Keep this email - you will need it for the free shipping codes, which expire in 30 days.

How to use Apple's recycling system without a new purchase

If you are not buying a new Apple computer, you can still use Apple's recycling program. You can send back any company's products, but it costs \$30 per box (up to 60 lbs). Order recycling services (and a prepaid UPS shipping label) on-line at: <http://www.recycleapc.com/apple/index.asp>

How to send your stuff back to Apple

You will need to provide your own box and packing materials. You must place CPUs and monitors into two separate boxes. Weight limit per package is less than 70 lbs. Take the boxed equipment plus the email you got from Apple to FEDEX. The email has the codes you will need for free shipping. These codes are only GOOD FOR 30 DAYS, then they expire.

What does Apple take back?

Computers, monitors, cables, mice, keyboards, computer speakers, printers, scanners, floppy drives, optical media, external hard drives.

Who can use Apple's takeback services?

Individuals and small business. Not available in Hawaii or Alaska.

What about business customers?

For larger business and institutions, Apple offers other volume recycling options. Contact irecycle@apple.com.

Trade in Apple Equipment

Currently, trade-in is offered only to educational institutions. <http://www.apple.com/education/shop/recycle/index.html>

Read the small print (Details you need to know)

- Free shipping only works for 30 days after you get your email from Apple.
- There are many on-line and in-store sales outlets called Authorized Resellers, but purchases through these resellers do NOT qualify for free recycling. Refurbished sales must be "Apple Certified Refurbished" to qualify.
- They don't take back your stuff at the Apple retail stores.
- You MUST select the free recycling option at the time you are buying your system. You can't add it later.

Link for more details

<http://www.apple.com/environment/recycling/program/index.html>

DELL'S COMPUTER TAKEBACK PROGRAM

Recycling your old Dell for free

Dell now takes back all Dell brand products for FREE

Dell will now take back any Dell product for free, even if you aren't buying a new one. You have to send it back to them, but they pay for shipping. See details below under "How to send your stuff back."

Recycling for free when you are buying a new Dell

Dell takes back any company's equipment for free when you buy a new Dell computer

You must buy your new computer from the home/home office part of their website. (This offer doesn't apply to business sales.)

If you are ordering your computer on-line, you can request a free recycling kit by selecting the option called "Recycle my old system with Dell (Free)." If you order on the phone, ask your sales rep to include the recycling kit with your order. Your new PC will arrive with a Dell recycling envelope containing 2 prepaid air bills and instructions on how to pack and ship your old equipment.

Recycling non-Dell equipment any time

Dell has eliminated the option for consumers to send back non-Dell equipment at any time for a fee. It's available to business customers using Dell's asset recovery system (see below).

How to send your stuff back to Dell

You will need to provide your own box and packing materials. You order a Dell recycling kit on Dell's website (or select it as part of your purchase). Dell will send you prepaid air bills and instructions for how to pack your items, and for scheduling the shipper to pick your items up at your house. To order free takeback of Dell products, you will be asked to enter the weight and an identifying code from each Dell product you want to recycle – a service tag, serial number, PPID, or Express Service Code. (Dell labels its products with these codes.)

What does Dell take back?

Dell will take back all Dell-branded products. For customers returning other companies' products, Dell takes back computers, keyboards, mice, monitors, printers.

Who can use Dell's recycling service?

Free takeback of Dell products is available to ANY Dell product owner (individuals, businesses, organizations, agencies, etc.). To get "free takeback with purchase" recycling, when you can send back another company's product, you must be buying from Dell's Home/Home Office website (not their business sites). Some "consumers" buy from Dell's small business website, but these are not eligible for the free takeback with purchase program.

What about business customers?

Businesses can also use Dell's asset recovery system to sell old equipment. Details are on their [asset recovery website](#).

Link for more details

Dell Recycling Website. Go to www.dell4me.com/recycling

HP's COMPUTER TAKEBACK PROGRAM

How to get FREE recycling from HP

HP doesn't offer free takeback on their products but they offset this cost if you are buying new HP products.

HP charges for their recycling service, but if you are buying a new HP product, you can usually apply an E-Coupon that you get from recycling to cover most or all of this recycling cost.

How to use HP's recycling system

HP will take back a big range of equipment. (It doesn't have to be HP equipment.) HP has an on-line system to "order" recycling services. You fill out the checklist of equipment you want to recycle, and they will charge you according to the items on your checklist, between \$13 and \$34 per product. <https://warp1.external.hp.com/recycle/>

HP will send you a recycling kit, including prepaid shipping air bills and packing instructions. You will need to provide your own box and packing materials. HP's shippers pick up your items from you. About a week later, HP will send you an e-coupon that you can apply to purchases made on HP's Home/Home Office sales website. Currently, the coupon value for recycling a monitor (for which you paid \$29) is \$30. So it covers the cost of recycling.

Trade in your old equipment toward new HP purchase

Sometimes you can trade in your old equipment (HP and other manufacturers') and apply a trade-in allowance towards new purchases from HP. HP offers trade-in allowances on a wide range of products: desktop computer, notebook, PC server, monitor, printer, plotter, copier, digital camera, PDA, projector, networking, and data-storage products. You can get an immediate on-line quote on your equipment's trade-in value at their user-friendly trade-in site:

http://www.hp.com/united-states/tradein/home_flash.html

What does HP take back?

Printers, scanners, fax machines, personal computers, desktop servers, monitors, handheld devices, etc. – along with related external components such as cables, mice, keyboards.

Who can use HP's recycling services?

Anyone can use it. But e-coupons for recycling credit towards purchases are available to individual consumers only, buying from the home/home office sales website.

What about business customers?

Businesses can use HP's asset recovery system to sell old equipment to offset recycling costs. Details are on their [asset recovery site](#).

Read the small print (Details you need to know)

HP's system makes you send back your stuff first, then you get the coupon towards purchasing new equipment. If you want to send back a computer, you can't really send your current computer back before you get your new one (since you will need to transfer your data). So this system works best either to recycle your older equipment or for a discount (with the coupon) towards your next purchase. It won't work as a rebate on your recent purchase.

Link for more details

HP's Recycling Website: <https://warp1.external.hp.com/recycle/>

LENOVO'S COMPUTER TAKEBACK PROGRAM

Who is Lenovo?

In May of 2005, IBM sold off their PC division (including their Thinkpad line) to Lenovo, a Chinese PC manufacturer, and the world's third largest PC vendor. The two companies still maintain some business alliances.

How to get Free recycling from Lenovo.

Lenovo now offers free recycling of old Lenovo and some IBM products for consumers and small businesses in the US, through their Eco-Takeback program. This program uses a company that will refurbish and reuse products whenever possible, and may offer you money back, depending on the value of your old product. Lenovo will take back Lenovo and some IBM products for free regardless of their value. But they also accept some other brands of some products (except CRT monitors) through this program. The cost (or reward) depends on the product, and is determined with their online calculator.

How to use Lenovo's recycling system

Lenovo's program is a mail-back program, where you ship your products back to them (they pay for shipping for Lenovo and IBM products). Their takeback program evaluates whether your old products have any value – and if they do, you may get money back (in the form of a prepaid Visa card). Use their website to "register" your product, find out its value, and download the shipping label.

How to send your stuff back to Lenovo

You will need to provide your own box and packing materials. Weight limit per package is 69 lbs. Maximum box size limit is 26x26x26 inches. Once you "register" your product on the Lenovo website, you will download a prepaid mailing label, that is either for the US Post office or UPS (depending on what you are sending).

What does Lenovo take back?

Laptops, desktops, CRT monitors, flat panel monitors, cell phones, plus accessories: keyboards, mice, power cords, phone charger, battery.

Who can use Lenovo's takeback services?

Consumers and small business.

What about business customers?

IBM offers a buyback program for computers which still have value. You can get an online quote for **1-250 items** at:

<http://www-03.ibm.com/financing/us/recovery/small/>

For **larger quantities**, IBM has several asset recovery options:

<http://www-03.ibm.com/financing/us/recovery/large/index.html>

Link for more details

<http://lenovo.ecotakeback.com/>

LG'S TAKEBACK PROGRAM

How to get FREE recycling from LG

LG has partnered with Waste Management's Recycle America program to offer free takeback of their old products, including the Zenith and GoldStar brands, which LG owns.

How to get your stuff back to LG

Consumers must drop off their items at a designated LG takeback site, listed here: <http://us.lge.com/green/locationlist.xls>. This list is the same as the Sony takeback sites, as Sony also uses Waste Management. LG's goal is to have at least one drop off site in every state by the end of 2008.

What does LG take back?

LG will take back televisions, monitors, audio equipment, video cassette players and recorders, DVD players and recorders, combination TV/VCR and TV/DVD units, set top boxes and accessories associated with those products. Consumers may drop off up to 5 LG-branded items at a time. There is no fee to consumers for the covered LG-brand products; other brands will be accepted, but a fee may be charged by Waste Management for non-LG brands.

Cell phones, PDA, and GPS devices are covered by a separate, free mail-back program: http://us.lge.com/about/mobile_recycle_program.jsp. Use that website to download a prepaid postal mailing label to send these items back for recycling. (They don't have to be LG brands – they will accept any brand.) Or these can also be dropped off at the Waste Management sites listed above.

Who can use LG's takeback services?

Consumers.

What about business customers?

Businesses can use the service, but they will need to pay a fee.

Read the small print
(Details you need to know)

Waste management is adding new sites regularly, so if there are none located near you, check back soon.

Link for more details

<http://us.lge.com/green/> or call LG's customer service center at 1-866-372-2928

SAMSUNG'S TAKEBACK PROGRAM

How to get FREE recycling from Samsung

Samsung will launch its "Recycling Direct" program on **October 1, 2008**, which will allow consumers to bring back Samsung consumer electronics for free recycling. No new purchase is required to use this program.

How to use Samsung's program

Samsung will set up collection points in all 50 states, plus they will offer collection events, some in partnership with retailers. Locations will be posted on this site as of October 1, where you can click on the state: <http://pages.samsung.com/us/recyclingdirect/locations.html>

What does Samsung take back?

Samsung will take back any consumer electronic product with their name on it, ranging from televisions, DVD and VHS players, audio equipment and home theater systems, to cameras, camcorders, computer monitors, printers, and peripherals. This does not include home appliances like refrigerators.

Samsung has a separate program for cell phones, where you can download a shipping label to mail back old cell phones.

<http://mobile.samsungusa.com/recycling/index.jsp>

Samsung also takes back printer toner cartridges for recycling, using Fedex shipping. <http://pages.samsung.com/fedextoner/index.jsp>

Who can use Samsung's takeback services?

Consumers.

What about business customers?

Business customers can use the services for a fee.

Trade in Samsung Equipment Samsung has a trade in program for monitors, laser printers and multi-function products. Trading in working products can year you a discount for purchasing new Samsung products. <http://www.anythingit.com/samsung.html>

Link for more details www.samsung.com/recyclingdirect

SONY'S TAKEBACK & TRADE-IN PROGRAMS

How to get FREE recycling from Sony Sony was the first TV company in the US to offer free takeback. Sony has partnered with Waste Management's Recycle America program to offer free takeback of their old products. Sony will accept any product with Sony's name on it for free at these collection sites.

How to use Sony's program Consumers must take their Sony products to a designated collection site. The list of sites can be found on the [Sony website](#), or call Waste Management for details on locations: 877-439-2795. They are adding new sites frequently, so check back periodically for new locations. Sony has said they will add a mail-back option in the future.

You can use [this site](#) to enter your address and find the closest site to you:

Consumers may take back other brand products to these sites, but they will probably have to pay a fee at the time.

What does Sony take back Sony will take back any product with Sony's name on it for free recycling.

Who can use Sony's takeback services? Consumers.

Read the small print Sony has committed to providing enough drop-off locations in all 50 states so there is a recycling center within 20 miles of 95 percent of the U.S. population.

Link to info on Sony's takeback program: <http://www.sony.com/recycle>

SONY'S NOTEBOOK and CAMERA/CAMCORDER TRADE-IN PROGRAMS

What does Sony take back for trade-in? Sony has two trade-in programs, one for notebook computers, and another for cameras and camcorders. Both programs will take back your old products, and if they have value, Sony will give you a gift card towards a future purchase at a Sony store or Sony Style on-line, or credit against a recent purchase.

How does the trade-in program work? Sony's website has online trade-in calculators, where you can see if your notebook or camera has any value for a trade-in. (They don't have to be a Sony brand.) If the calculator tells you that your product is eligible for trade-in, then you can either take it into a Sony Style store or a Sony outlet, or ship it back for free.

[Link to notebook trade in program.](#)

[Link to camera/camcorder trade in program.](#)

TOSHIBA, GATEWAY COMPUTER TAKEBACK PROGRAM

How to get FREE recycling from the Dealtree Trade In Program

Some companies use the Dealtree Trade-in program to offer recycling services. While this service (described in more detail on page XX) is primarily used to trade in old working electronics for future purchase credit, some companies also offer their customers use of the Dealtree recycling program. You must ship your products back to Dealtree.

Toshiba: Free takeback of any Toshiba notebook

TOSHIBA will now take back any TOSHIBA notebook or MP3 player for free through their Dealtree portal. They pay for shipping. They will take back any other company's notebook for free, but you pay for shipping.

Toshiba's link for details:

<http://toshiba.eztradein.com/toshiba/>

Gateway:

Gateway also uses the Dealtree portal. They will take back old Gateway products, but you must pay the shipping and recycling costs.

Gateway's link for details

<http://gateway.eztradein.com/gateway/>

TRADE IN YOUR OLD ELECTRONICS FOR CASH AT DEALTREE

Trade in your old electronics

Several electronics manufacturers and retailers will allow recent customers to use a trade-in rebate service provided by Dealtree.com to sell their old electronics. You can trade in a whole range of working consumer electronics (see list below). Once they are received and verified by Dealtree, they will send you either a check or gift certificate, depending on the company.

What You Can Trade In

You can potentially get a trade-in rebate on all these (working) products: Desktops, laptops, servers, camcorders, cell phones, digital cameras, PDAs, iPods, game systems, audio and car receivers, multimedia projectors, flat panel monitors. (No trade-in value for CRT monitors.) Some companies allow only certain trade in items.

How Much Is Your Stuff Worth?

On each of the companies' trade-in sites, you will find a Trade In Value Calculator. You fill in details about your item (including current condition), and it will tell you what it's worth. This must be verified by Dealtree, once they actually receive your items, however.

What Companies Participate?

A wide range of manufacturers and retailers participate in the Dealtree trade-in program. Most (except eBay) require that you be a recent customer in order to use their trade-in program. Visit this site to see the current trade in partners: <http://dealtree.net/services.cfm>

REMOVING YOUR DATA BEFORE RECYCLING

None of the consumer recycling programs will clean the data off your computer hard drive (except HP's trade in program, for a \$15 fee.) These services are provided under the asset management programs (to businesses and institutions) but what should consumers do before they send back their computers?

There are several products which clean data off hard drives, but opinions vary as to which is the best (and most complete) technology. We don't endorse any brand of software, but here are some options.

PC World Magazine Recommendations, Feb 2006 Software Reviews:

<http://www.pcworld.com/howto/article/0,aid,123786,00.asp>

Blancco's File Shredder Software

http://www.blancco.com/main_site?action=siteupdate/view&id=23