

In Most States You Can Still Throw Your Old TVs in the Trash

Old tube TVs contain many toxic materials, including four to eight pounds of lead. When TVs are tossed in the trash and end up in our landfills, they can break down and leach these toxic chemicals into our groundwater and surface water. Yet astonishingly, it's still perfectly legal to toss your old TV in the trash in most states.

Only Six States Will Have Disposal Bans In Place by the Digital Conversion

States have begun to pass legislation to keep TVs and other electronic waste out of their landfills and incinerators. But only six states will have disposal bans in effect at the time of the digital conversion on February 17 2009 (or June 12, 2009 – if Congress delays the conversion until then).

State	When Disposal Ban Began	What specifically is Banned
California	2002 , expanded in 2006 to include universal waste	Televisions and computer monitors, computers, printers, VCRs, cell phones, telephones, radios, and microwave ovens
Maine	2006	Cathode Ray Tubes (CRTs)
Massachusetts	2000	Cathode Ray Tubes (CRTs)
Minnesota	July 1 2006	Cathode Ray Tubes (CRTs)
New Hampshire	July 1, 2007	Video display devices
Rhode Island	Feb 1, 2009	Computers, monitors, TVs, laptops.

States With Disposal Bans Starting in 2010 or later

Some states have passed laws to ban e-waste from landfills, but they don't take effect until after the digital conversion. All of these passed their disposal bans as part of statewide e-waste recycling laws, which require the manufacturers to pay for electronics recycling. Typically, states have landfill bans begin a year after their recycling program is up and running.

State	When Disposal Ban Begins	What specifically is Banned
Oregon	Jan 2010	Desktop computer, laptop, TVs and monitors with diagonal screen sizes more than 4 inches.
New York City	July 1, 2010	Computers, laptops, monitors, TVs, printers, keyboards, mice
Connecticut	Jan 2011	TVs, monitors, personal computers, laptops
New Jersey	Jan 2012	TVs, monitors, personal computers, laptops or components from them.
Illinois	Jan 2012	Computers, laptops, TVs, monitors, printers
North Carolina	Jan 2012	Computers, Monitors, Laptops, Keyboards, Mice, televisions

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