

Computer Disposal

Hazards-Computers are composed of not only plastic and silicon, but also heavy metals. These heavy metals include cadmium, lead, and mercury. Cathode Ray Tubes (CRTs) contain high levels of lead. Processors, printers, and other items with printed circuit boards contain lead solder or silver. CPUs normally contain batteries that contain mercury, zinc, or cadmium. These heavy metals have been shown to cause health and environmental damage.

Laws-The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) have classified computers and their components disposed of by businesses, institutions, and government as hazardous waste. This means that these materials cannot be disposed of in a conventional landfill or incinerator and must be handled by a licensed, permitted contractor.

Residential Electronics-On April 1, 2011 the NY State Electronic Recycling and Reuse Act takes effect. This law requires manufacturers to recapture certain percentages of a comprehensive list of the electronics they produce. They must provide collections in each county and in municipalities over 10,000 and are working with recyclers to achieve their goals. GLOW expects to be working with these companies to offer collections. For dates and places of the collections, please call the GLOW Office. These collections are open to all Genesee, Livingston & Wyoming County residents.

Additional Options

Used Motor Oil- NY State Law requires service stations that sell 500 gallons and retailers that sell 1,000 gallons of oil a year to accept up to 5 gallons per person per day at no charge.

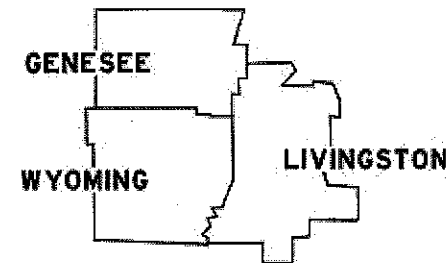
Packing Peanuts and Styrofoam-Most mailing stores, such as Mailboxes Etc., FedEx and businesses that do mail order sales accept and reuse them. In Batavia, One World Projects and The UPS Store accept them. Call the Peanut Hotline at 800/828-2214 for additional locations. GLOW's Mat-Ex: Western/Central NY Materials Exchange (www.mat-ex.org) can also be used. Block Styrofoam, EPS (expanded polystyrene, made up of little Styrofoam balls) is recycled by Thermal Foams in Buffalo. Call 716/874-6474 or log on to www.thermalfoams.com

Non-Hazardous Materials with Reuse Potential-There are organizations and programs that match people and businesses that have surplus or scrap materials with others that can use them. Contact the GLOW office for information on GLOW's materials exchange program (www.mat-ex.org) and others.

And how do I get rid of these things?

GLOW Region Solid Waste

Miscellaneous Items and Household Hazardous Waste Questions and Answers (FAQs)



GLOW Region Solid Waste
Genesee County Building #2
3837 West Main Street Road
Batavia, NY 14020-9404
Phone: 585-344-2580 ext. 5463
Hotline: 800-836-1154
Fax: 585-345-3061
Email: glow@co.genesee.ny.us
Website: www.glowsolidwaste.org

Computer Security

To ensure that your data isn't stolen from the hard drive when you dispose of a computer, the disc should be overwritten. You can do this by obtaining a program that will make the disc unreadable. Inspector e-maxx (www.pcinspector.de/emaxx/uk/welco.me.htm) meets U.S. military standards. It says no data can be recovered after it is used. It is FREE. Another highly rated program for Windows is Eraser, which is also free. Go to www.heidi.ie/eraser. For Macs, use SuperScrubber (\$30 at www.jiva.com) Businesses must dispose of computers safely and legally. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have labeled them as hazardous waste. As such they must be disposed of by companies that are permitted to do so. GLOW publishes a brochure that lists local companies that provide this service. For a copy contact GLOW at 585/344-2580 ext. 5463, 800/836-1154 or glow@co.genesee.ny.us.



There are a number of items that GLOW cannot or will not accept at its household hazardous waste collections, either because of cost or because there are other environmentally acceptable ways to dispose or recycle them. In order to stretch funding as far as possible we ask that you dispose of the following items as listed in this brochure. **Please DO NOT bring them to a household hazardous waste collection.**

Empty containers from hazardous waste materials-Place any and all in bags with your regular trash.

Latex paint-Remove the tops, preferably outside, and let it harden completely. Then put the can and all in the regular trash. To speed the process (with cans that are one half or less full) mix the paint with clay based cat litter or floor dry. Let it harden and put it in the regular trash. **Other Latex paint alternatives** include: save it for touch ups, mix several cans together and using it where color is not important, or give it to someone who can use it (friends, neighbors, community service organizations).

Smoke Detectors-Most contain radioactive Americium 241. They should be mailed back to the manufacturer, where they are disposed of as hazardous waste. The address is often imprinted on the underside of the unit. If not, contact the GLOW office for a list of manufacturer's phone numbers.

Appliances containing refrigerants (dehumidifiers, air conditioners, refrigerators, freezers and water coolers)-By law, refrigerants (oftentimes Freon) must be removed and recovered before the appliance can be recycled or disposed of. In fact, it is a violation of the Federal Clean Air Act to break lines and release the material.

A certified machine must be put on the item, even if it is clear that the refrigerant is gone. Heating, air and refrigeration contractors have this equipment. Appliance dealers, waste haulers and scrap metal recyclers **MAY** also have it. Prices for the "degassing" service vary. Often a sticker with the machine's registration number is put on the appliance as proof that the appliance was "degassed" legally and properly. A receipt certifying the removal may also be given.

Sharps-A New York State Law, effective in 1996, requires hospitals and nursing homes to accept needles, syringes and lancets from the public at no charge. The facilities must:

- Establish times for collection
- State where in the facility they are accepted
- State how they are accepted (the type of container they are brought to the facility in)

Contact the GLOW office for a brochure listing the facilities in Genesee, Livingston and Wyoming Counties and their requirements.

Batteries

Household Batteries (Alkaline and Carbon Zinc)-Some hardware stores and retailers in the region (Lowe's and others) now accept them for recycling. They can also be placed in the regular trash. They no longer contain mercury.

Rechargeable Batteries (Ni-Cd, Lithium Ion (Li-ion) Metal Hydride, small sealed lead (under 2 lbs))-These batteries are recycled by the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation. They are accepted by many retailers that sell products that use them. Log on to www.rbrc.com or call 800-8-BATTERY for a list of locations in your area. In addition, in late December 2010 New York State passed the Rechargeable Battery Take Back Law. The law will be in effect by mid 2011. It requires manufacturers to take back and recycle batteries that they produce. The list of batteries includes: Ni-Cds, sealed lead, Lithium ion, nickel metal hydride and other rechargeable batteries weighing less than 25 lbs. Lead acid vehicle batteries are not included. (See below) Retailers that sell them will take them back and companies such as the RBRC, as noted above will recycle them

Vehicle Batteries (Lead Acid)-GLOW has traditionally accepted these batteries at its household hazardous waste collections. In addition, by State law retailers and distributors must accept, free of charge, up to 2 used batteries per month from any individual. Scrap metal dealers also accept them.

Compact Fluorescent Bulbs (CFLs)-All Home Depot and Lowe's stores throughout the U.S., along with various hardware stores in the region accept these bulbs for recycling. Fluorescent tubes should be brought to a household hazardous waste collection.

Cell Phones-Local domestic violence agencies collect phones for their clients to use in emergencies. Contact the GLOW office for local organizations. They are also collected by non profit agencies that use the collections as a fundraising tool. Contact the GLOW office for contacts. Under the NYS Wireless Recycling Act of 2007 all wireless telephone service providers must accept cell phones for reuse or recycling.

Ink Jet Cartridges-There are a number of companies that collect the cartridges, often along with laser cartridges and cell phones, and pay non profit organizations and schools for them. They provide containers (boxes and envelopes) and pay for shipping. For additional information contact the GLOW office or log on to www.inkjetsites.com/inkjetrecycling/

