



Know Your Waste

E-WASTE

What is E-Waste?

Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) includes phones, laptops, TVs, appliances, lighting, and anything powered by batteries or electricity.

When electronics are no longer needed or beyond repair, they are referred to as Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), also known as 'electronic waste' or 'e-waste'.

The Dark and Bright Side of E-Waste

Treasure in Trash: E-waste contains valuable metals like gold, silver, and copper that can be recovered through recycling. For example, recycling one tonne of circuit boards can recover 40 - 800 times more gold than mined from one tonne of ore.

Scarce Resources: As materials like palladium and tantalum become rarer, recycling e-waste helps meet the growing demand for electronics.

Toxic Trouble: E-waste can contain harmful substances like lead and mercury. Improper disposal leads to soil and water contamination, posing health risks to humans and wildlife.

Be an E-Waste Champion

Extend Electronics' Life

Repair, donate, or sell old devices.

Choose Second-Hand

Buy refurbished or pre-owned gadgets.

Trade-in

Use retailer trade-in programmes.









Rent or Lease

Consider leasing electronics instead of buying new.

Recycle Right

Always opt for responsible recycling.

The 8 Categories of E-Waste

	Type	Examples	
	Large household appliances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fridges & freezers • Washing machines • Dishwashers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ovens & stoves • Air conditioners • Electric heaters
	Small household appliances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microwaves • Electric hot plates • Vacuum cleaners • Electric fans • Irons • Toasters • Fryers & air fryers • Domestic coffee machines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blenders, grinders, & juicers • Clocks & watches • Hair-cutting, hair-drying, toothbrushing, & shaving accessories
	Office, information & communication (ICT) equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cellphones & telephones • PCs & laptops • Tablets • Printers • Headphones & earphones • USB drives & flash drives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portable hard drives (HDDs) • Projectors • Calculators (pocket & desk)
	Consumer electronics & entertainment equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Television sets • Video cameras & recorders • Digital cameras • Hi-fi and radio systems • Audio amplifiers • Musical instruments • Electronic toys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video games & VR headsets • Sports equipment & devices • Drones • GPS units
	Light sources & lighting equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fluorescent lamps • LED lights • Lasers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light bulbs • Other lights & lamps
	Electric & electronic tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sewing machines • Construction equipment & tools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drills • Saws • Gardening tools
	Security & healthcare equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCTV equipment • Household alarm systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical equipment • Fire detection systems
	Mixed waste electrical & electronic equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar panels • Generators • Inverters • Antennas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data & electrical cables • Industrial & portable batteries

Where to Take Your E-Waste

Taking Care of Business: Small household appliances only
272 Umbilo Rd, Bulwer

Electronic Cemetary: All e-waste, excluding lighting and batteries
Unit 7, Fischer Park, 9 Blessing Ninela Rd, Hillcrest
(call for collections)

Makro: Household appliances, ICT equipment, and other electronic devices
Springfield Park & Cornubia branches

Incredible Connection: Small household appliances and ICT equipment
Gateway, Watercrest Mall, Galleria Mall, and Ballito Junction branches

Hi-Fi Corporation: Small household appliances and ICT equipment
Springfield Park & Cornubia branches

Woolworths: Portable batteries and small household lamps
Musgrave Centre (and most other Woolworths stores)

Information adapted from WEEE are South Africa.
Visit weeearesa.org for more insights.

