

Planet Pinellas

An HEC₃ Edition from Pinellas County Utilities

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Disposing of Old Electronics and Chemicals—Now Easier Than Ever!



Pinellas County Utilities The Household Electronics and Chemical Collection Center (HEC₃) allows residents to drop off household hazardous waste (such as TVs, computers, cell phones, paint, fertilizers and pesticides) and now accepts a greater variety of items, including vehicle batteries, cooking oil, used motor oil and smoke detectors. Residents can also drop off their regular recycling at the facility with drop-off bins for paper (mixed paper, cardboard and newspaper) and containers (aluminum, plastic and steel). A pick-up area for free, clean mulch was also added.



The HEC₃ is a free service for residents of Pinellas County, and businesses can also utilize the HEC₃ on twelve EnviroBusiness Days throughout the year. Businesses benefit by paying the county's reduced rate for disposal. All materials brought into the HEC₃ are recycled, reclaimed or blended for fuel except

pesticides, which are incinerated in an offsite, permitted hazardous waste incinerator.

The HEC₃ facility is funded by the sale of electricity generated at the nearby Waste-to-Energy facility.



Hours of Operation:

Monday - Friday:
6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Saturday:
7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For more information, visit pinellascounty.org/utilities or call (727) 464-7500.

Pinellas County Utilities' Household Electronics & Chemical Collection Center is located at 2855 109th Ave. N., off 28th Street North in St. Petersburg.

Haz-to-Go

Pinellas County Homeowner and Condominium Associations: Schedule the Haz-to-Go trailer, and host your own household electronics and chemical mobile collection event. At the scheduled time, the Haz-to-Go trailer pulls right into your neighborhood so association members can conveniently drop off unwanted hazardous waste items. All household mobile collection services are free for Pinellas County residents!

Hazardous waste items contain chemicals that need special disposal. With a capacity of up to 20,000 pounds, the Haz-to-Go trailer helps reach homeowner and condo groups along with other civic associations desiring to host their own mobile collection. This program was developed to complement the popular mobile collection events around the county. Residents have helped divert millions of pounds of household chemicals and electronics since 1991. The Haz-to-Go mobile collection trailer is available for scheduling on weekdays for a three-hour time frame. To schedule a Haz-to-Go event or get more information, contact Solid Waste Operations at (727) 464-7500.



What to Bring

The following electronic items are considered hazardous due to substances such as lead, mercury, cadmium and brominated flame retardants.*

✓ Hazardous Electronics

- Camcorders
- Cassette players
- CD players
- Cell phones
- Computers, including monitor, keyboard, CPU, mouse, laptop, speakers, printers, external drives and power supplies
- Copiers
- Digital cameras
- DVD players
- Fax machines
- GPS units
- Handheld devices such as smartphones
- Marine depth finders
- Microwave ovens
- Pagers
- Portable players such as MP3 or iPod
- Printer/toner cartridges
- Projectors
- Radios
- Scanners
- Stereo equipment
- Telephones
- Televisions
- Typewriters (electric)
- VCRs
- Video game players

*Not all electronics are hazardous. See our list of electronics that are NOT hazardous (such as blow dryers or vacuum cleaners). An item IS hazardous if it contains any of the following: digital display, circuit board or rechargeable battery. If in doubt, bring the item to us!

✓ Hazardous Chemicals

Household:

- Aerosol cans
- Batteries
- Bug spray
- Cleaners
- Cooking oil
- Dry cleaning solvent
- Fluorescent bulbs
- Furniture polish
- Mercury thermometers
- Mercury thermostats
- Moth balls
- Nail polish or remover
- Photographic chemicals
- Shoe polish
- Smoke detectors

Outdoor:

- Fertilizers
- Flares
- Fungicides

- Herbicides
- Insecticides
- Lighter fluid
- Pesticides
- Pool or spa chemicals
- Weed killers

Workshop & Garage:

- Automotive fluids such as antifreeze, battery acid or brake fluid
- Gasoline & kerosene
- Glue (solvent based)
- Motor oil
- Mouse or rat poison
- Paint (latex or oil)
- Paint removers & thinners
- Solvents
- Vehicle batteries
- Wood preservatives

⊘ Materials NOT accepted

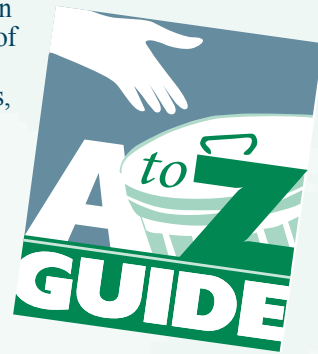
These "special" hazardous waste items are not accepted at HEC₃ or a mobile collection.

- Explosives (including guns)
- Fire extinguishers
- Medical, biological or infectious waste
- Medicines
- Propane tanks
- Radioactive waste



For detailed information on the proper disposal of electronics, chemicals and over 250 other items, visit pinellascounty.org/recycle and click on "A to Z

Guide." Pinellas County residents visited the site more than 100,000 times last year, seeking new ways to reduce, reuse and recycle.



Mining e-Waste

So what if we own an average of 23 consumer electronics per household. That doesn't stop us from wanting even more.

Pinellas County's efforts to reduce hazardous materials in our wastestream are also designed to keep valuable commodities from becoming trash. Most electronics contain hazardous heavy metals, such as lead, mercury and cadmium, but also precious metals, including platinum, gold, silver and copper. Americans got rid of 27 million TVs, 205 million computer products and more than 100 million cellphones and PDAs in 2007, according to figures from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Just 16% of that equipment was recycled, with e-waste being produced at three times the rate of other solid waste.

At the 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver, the champions stood on the podium to be honored for their achievements. The precious metals in the medallions they wore around their necks signified the rare nature of their talent and dedication. It wasn't noticeable, but these tokens of greatness were a little greener than in years past. Made with traces of precious metals recovered from e-waste, they provided a shining example of how recovered materials from the circuit boards of discarded electronic devices can be given new life.



For more information on reducing, reusing and recycling, call Solid Waste Operations at (727) 464-7500, or visit us on the Web at www.pinellascounty.org/utilities