



Managing Discarded Televisions and Electronic Devices at Businesses, Non-Profits, Schools and Public Agencies

Hazardous Waste Program fact sheet

3/2009

All businesses, non-profits, schools and public agencies in Missouri are required by law to properly manage certain discarded electronics. Some electronics may be classified as hazardous waste. Color televisions, computer monitors, circuit boards and other electronics contain heavy metals so they cannot legally be disposed in Missouri landfills by businesses. In older televisions, these heavy metals can include up to four pounds of lead. Other materials that can be found in televisions include chromium, cadmium, mercury, beryllium, nickel, zinc and brominated flame retardants.

There are three basic ways a business can choose to manage unwanted televisions: by reusing, recycling or managing as hazardous waste.

Reusing and Recycling - Hazardous electronics, including televisions, intended for legitimate use or reuse do not need to be managed as hazardous waste. If legitimately used or reused, the materials are not considered solid or hazardous waste. Properly reusing or recycling televisions and electronics prevents heavy metals and other toxic materials from polluting our environment.

Reuse - While your business may no longer have a need for a television, non-profit groups and other organizations might have a use for working televisions. Schools, churches or thrift stores may accept working televisions, but it is recommended to contact the organization first to see if there is a need for televisions.

Recycle - Recycling through a registered e-cycle Missouri recycler will help ensure your business or organization complies with the law. A list of electronic recyclers in Missouri is available online at www.e-cyclemo.org.

Recycling electronics, like televisions, allows for a process called resource recovery to take place. The recycling process can isolate and remove materials from a television, eliminating the need to mine new materials from the ground.

Televisions as Hazardous Waste

Businesses that choose not to reuse or recycle televisions must manage them as hazardous waste. Businesses must abide by applicable hazardous waste laws and regulations. For more information about managing hazardous waste, see our fact sheet *Does Your Business Generate Hazardous Waste?* available online at www.dnr.mo.gov/pubs/pub117.pdf.

Digital Television Transition

Some broadcast television stations in the United States stopped analog broadcasting on Feb. 17 and began broadcasting only in digital. Remaining television stations will make the switch from analog to digital broadcasting between March 14 and June 12. June 12 is the final deadline for terminating analog broadcasts.

A digital convertor box is needed for an analog television to be able to receive digital signals.

Analog televisions that can not receive a digital signal can still be useful to businesses. These televisions can be connected to a DVD or VCR and used to watch training videos or can be connected to security cameras.

Helpful Web sites

- To learn more about electronic recycling in Missouri, including a list of certified electronic recyclers in Missouri, visit www.e-cyclemo.org.
- To learn about electronic recycling options for households in Missouri see the fact sheet *Managing Discarded Televisions* online at www.dnr.mo.gov/pubs/pub2332.pdf.
- Missouri Revised Statutes, or RSMo, including the Missouri Hazardous Waste Management Law, are available from the Revisor of Statutes, 573-526-1288, or online through the Missouri General Assembly Web site at www.moga.mo.gov/.
- Missouri Code of State Regulations is available from the Missouri Secretary of State's Office, 573-751-4015, or online at www.sos.mo.gov/adrules/csr/csr.asp.
- Code of Federal Regulations is available at www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html. Copies may be purchased from a U.S. Government Bookstore, the U.S. Government Printing Office or from a commercial information service such as the Bureau of National Affairs.

For More Information

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www.dnr.mo.gov/env/hwp/index.html