


Aim How has e-waste become an ever-increasing environmental problem?

E-waste is a popular, informal name for electronic products nearing the end of their "useful life."

Computers, televisions, VCRs, stereos, copiers, and fax machines are common electronic products. Many of these products can be reused, refurbished, or recycled, but current statistics indicate that only 12.5% of e-waste is being recycled. NEWS FLASH ... Forget plastic! According to the EPA, e-waste is now the fastest growing municipal waste stream in America (but technically, a lot of e-waste consists of plastic parts... so plastic probably still holds the title.)

1. What are the two ways e-waste is usually recycled?	
<p><i>Demanufacturing</i></p> <p><u>manual</u> dismantling product to market its valuable raw materials/parts</p>	<p><i>Shredding & Separating</i></p> <p>specialized machines destroy product and recover original materials to be sold as commodities</p>

2. What precious metals can be recovered from e-waste?			
copper	silver	gold	palladium

<p>3. What electronic items are considered hazardous materials?</p> <p>cathode ray tubes (old TVs/monitors) - lead (falls under RCRA) LCD screens/tubes (Hg, As, Pb, Cd, Cr, benzene)</p>	
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<p>4. Where does a great amount of e-waste end up going?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - store-take-backs/trade-ins → recycling facilities - landfills ☹️ - shipped to developing nations - cheaper labor/disposal - less oversight: laws less strict or poorly enforced no "watchdog" groups

<p>5. What laws govern e-waste?</p> <p>There are no federal laws governing the recycling or exporting of e-waste.</p> <p>Only 25 states have their own e-waste recycling laws:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - landfill / incineration bans - producer responsibility laws - take-backs, responsible recycling programs, <li style="padding-left: 40px;">- use environmentally safer materials, design longer-lasting products
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