

# ELECTRONICS



Electronic waste, which includes discarded computers, cell phones, fax machines, and other electronic equipment, is a serious problem in California. It can contain lead, heavy metals including mercury, arsenic, and cadmium, and other dangerous substances, and therefore cannot be discarded in landfills.

There are many opportunities for businesses in San Mateo County to properly dispose of unwanted electronics. Typically, computers under five years old can often be refurbished for reuse, and older systems can be recycled.

## ORGANIZATIONS ACCEPTING ELECTRONICS FOR REUSE

### COMPUTERS FOR EVERYONE

Menlo Park

*Pick up or drop off.*

[www.computersforeveryone.biz](http://www.computersforeveryone.biz)

(650) 847-5708

### ECUMENICAL HUNGER PROGRAM

East Palo Alto

*No charge, pick-up, computers must be working, internet capable and less than 5 years old.*

[www.ehpcares.org](http://www.ehpcares.org)

(650) 323-7781

### GOODWILL OF SAN FRANCISCO SAN MATEO & MARIN COUNTIES

*Accepts electronics, working or not.*

*No charge, free pick-up for 20 or more systems: (415) 575-2150.*

Drop-off at all Goodwill donation locations throughout San Mateo County.

[www.sfgoodwill.org](http://www.sfgoodwill.org)

(888) 4Goodwill (446-6394)

### INNVISION SHELTER NETWORK

Burlingame

*Drop-off. Must be working equipment 2 years old or less. Must be compatible with current technology. Please call ahead.*

[www.ivsn.org](http://www.ivsn.org)

(650) 685-5880 x 114

### SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

San Mateo, Redwood City, Daly City, and South San Francisco.

*No charge, pick-up service, whole, working computer systems must be less than 3 years old.*

<http://svdp.sanmateo.org>

(650) 871-6844

### WHY REUSE IS BETTER THAN RECYCLING

80% of all the energy needed to create and operate a computer is used to make the computer.<sup>1</sup> This means that any action we can take to extend the life of a PC promotes conservation and prevents waste. In fact, one study suggests that reuse is 20 times more energy efficient than recycling.<sup>2</sup>

*From Why Reuse is Better than Recycling Report, 10/08/2010, published by Computer Aid, [www.computeraid.org](http://www.computeraid.org)*

<sup>1</sup>Williams E., 2003. *Environmental impacts in the production of personal computers.* Williams, E. et al. (Eds.) *Computers and the Environment: Understanding and Managing their Impacts.* Kluwer Academic Publishers, pp. 41-72.

<sup>2</sup>Williams E. and Sasaki T., *Strategizing the End-of-Life Handling of PCs.* Ibid., pp. 183-196.

## GARBAGE COMPANIES ACCEPTING ELECTRONICS FOR RECYCLING

### ALLIED WASTE DALY CITY

Daly City

*Fee charged*

[www.alliedwastedalycity.com](http://www.alliedwastedalycity.com)

(650) 756-1130

### BLUE LINE TRANSFER, INC.

South San Francisco

*Fee charged*

[www.ssfscavenger.com](http://www.ssfscavenger.com)

(650) 589-5511

### RECOLOGY OF THE COAST

Pacifica

*Fee charged*

[www.recologyofthecoast.com](http://www.recologyofthecoast.com)

(650) 355-9000

### RECOLOGY SAN BRUNO

San Bruno

*Fee charged*

[www.recologysanbruno.com](http://www.recologysanbruno.com)

(650) 583-8536

### SHOREWAY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

San Carlos

*No charge*

[www.sbrecycling.net/public-recycling-center](http://www.sbrecycling.net/public-recycling-center)

(650) 802-8355

*Drop off only*

### QUESTIONS?

Visit [www.RecycleWorks.org](http://www.RecycleWorks.org)  
or call (888)-442-2666



# HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL



## VERY SMALL QUANTITY GENERATOR PROGRAM (VSQG)

It is illegal to dispose of hazardous waste in the trash. Small businesses operating in San Mateo County may be eligible to participate in the Very Small Quantity Generator (VSQG) Program to safely dispose of hazardous waste. The VSQG Program provides an inexpensive hazardous waste disposal option to eligible businesses, non-profits, and government agencies.

### ARE YOU A VSQG?

If your business generates less than 100 kilograms (27 gallons or 220 pounds) of hazardous waste per month, then you are a VSQG. Some businesses do not generate hazardous waste on a regular basis, but can qualify by having common hazardous wastes on site for less frequent disposal.

### WHAT IS THE COST FOR WASTES ACCEPTED?

The cost of disposing of hazardous waste depends on the type and amount of waste. Charges for disposal range from \$1.25 to \$22.00 per gallon for most waste types. The fees charged are pro-rated on a per-gallon basis, and are typically lower than fees at a licensed commercial hazardous waste hauler.

### MAKING AN APPOINTMENT

VSQG Collection Events are held on the first and third Wednesday of the month, between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Drop-offs are by appointment only.

To make an appointment:

1. See if your business requires an EPA ID number from the Department of Toxic Substance Control ([www.dtsc.ca.gov/PublicationsForms/upload/OAD\\_EPA\\_ID\\_FS.pdf](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/PublicationsForms/upload/OAD_EPA_ID_FS.pdf)).
2. Make a list of the amount and types of hazardous waste you have to dispose of. Please include what the waste is, the container size, and how much you have. Also include what appointment day and time you would like.
3. Have your EPA ID number and waste inventory list ready and call toll free 1-800-207-8222 (ask for San Mateo County Customer Service Representative); email [cesqgsanmateo@pscnw.com](mailto:cesqgsanmateo@pscnw.com) or fax 1-916-351-1707.
4. Staff will estimate your cost of disposal and set the appointment for you. If your desired appointment day and time is not available, staff will contact you for other available times.
5. Staff will provide you with the disposal costs and the information for your appointment, including driving directions to the collection location.
6. Then bring your waste in at your appointed day and time with payment for the costs.
7. Staff will issue you a receipt for the disposal costs.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions or need additional information, contact the VSQG Program: (650)655-6217 or visit [www.smcgov.org/vsqq](http://www.smcgov.org/vsqq).

## ACCEPTABLE WASTES

Latex paint, thinner, varnish, stains, oil-based paint  
Flammable solids  
Solvents (chlorinated and non-chlorinated)  
Aerosol cans  
Inks  
Acids and bases  
Photo-chemicals  
Poisons  
Pesticides  
Batteries  
Fluorescent light tubes

## UNACCEPTABLE WASTES

Radioactive wastes  
Electronic wastes and appliances  
Compressed gas cylinders (except propane)  
Explosives and ammunition  
Medical/biological wastes  
Tires  
Sharps & needles  
Asbestos

Waste in containers larger than 5-gallons are **NOT ACCEPTED** in the VSQG program.

*Call (650) 372-6200 for a list of commercial hazardous waste haulers to dispose of these materials.*

## DON'T QUALIFY FOR THE VSQG PROGRAM?

If you do not qualify for the VSQG Program, contact the County's hazardous waste department at (650) 372-6200 for a list of commercial hazardous waste haulers or see [www.smhealth.org/vsqq](http://www.smhealth.org/vsqq).



# USE LESS TOXICS



Materials used to build and maintain buildings can affect the health of employees. Items such as cleaning products, flooring, carpet, wall covering, ceiling tiles, furniture, and other wet products (adhesives, paints, etc.) can contain hazardous chemicals that affect the quality of the environment inside your business. Seek out the ingredients list by reading the label or asking the manufacturer for the material safety information.

When purchasing products, consider the following environmental criteria to create a healthier working environment.

## AVOID:

- Carcinogens, neurotoxins, mutagens or teratogens (products that are known to cause cancer, affect the brain or cause birth defects)
- Lead and mercury
- Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)
- Chlorofluorocarbon-containing refrigerants, solvents and other products
- Phosphates
- Corrosive, flammable, reactive, or irritation potential
- Polyvinyl chloride (PVC)
- Pesticides and herbicides

## CHOOSE:

- Biodegradable
- Biobased\*
- Low-emitting (chemicals) materials
- Nontoxic

*\*biobased = commercial or industrial items that are made of biological products such as agricultural (including plant, animal, and marine materials) or forestry materials.*

## RESOURCES

**GREENGUARD** Greenguard Environmental Institute is an independent, nonprofit organization that directs the GREENGUARD Certification Program, which tests low emitting products and materials. They were established specifically to address indoor air quality (IAQ) and the impact of building materials. The GREENGUARD Product Guide features products that meet acceptable IAQ pollutant guidelines and standards. For a list of products that are GREENGUARD certified, visit [www.greenguard.org](http://www.greenguard.org).

**GREEN SEAL** Green Seal is an independent, nonprofit organization that provides recommendations of environmentally preferable products published as Choose Green Reports. They identify and promote products that cause less toxic pollution and waste, and conserve resources and habitats. Evaluations are based on state-of-the-art science and information using internationally recognized methods and procedures. Visit [www.GreenSeal.org](http://www.GreenSeal.org).

**US EPA** The US Environmental Protection Agency and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health have information on specific toxic materials. Check out [www.cdc.gov/niosh/](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/) for more information.

**SCIENTIFIC CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS (SCS)** SCS is the nation's first third-party certifier of environmental and food safety achievements. Visit [www.scsertified.com](http://www.scsertified.com) for more information.

