

Your summer checklist to pick the right electronics recycler

Did you know that electronic waste is growing at a faster rate globally? The main reason is because of the electronic product life spans are getting shorter and changing consumer preferences.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, it is estimated that only 15 to 20 percent of e-waste is recycled, with the rest of these electronics going directly into landfills, incinerators and are illegally exported to developing countries. It is important to note that electronic components possess toxic elements, including lead, beryllium, polyvinyl chloride and mercury which are extremely toxic to the environment and humans. On the other hand, electronic devices are also rich sources of valuable raw materials and metals such as gold, copper, aluminum, cobalt, indium, antimony, and palladium- to mention a few. If recycled correctly, these valuable materials can be repurposed, reducing the need to extract them fresh from the earth.

Summer is a busy month for schools, corporations, banks and hospitals to focus on getting rid of old electronics and bringing in new equipment with updated technology for the coming quarter. This process requires choosing the right electronic recycling partner who aims to prevent unwanted electronics from ending up in landfills or being prematurely disposed of and recycled when there is somebody that can still use them. We brought you 6 questions to ask when picking the right recycler

1. Are you certified?

It is important to choose an R2 Certified electronics recycler which gives you greater control of your liability and risks to your business, data, and brand. You should not have to worry where your business's electronic equipment ends up once you are done using it, or going through all your inventory to figure out where the value is. Working with an R2 Certified recycler to get peace of mind that all of your risks are covered and you'll never be surprised by fines or unflattering press coverage because your assets wound up in the wrong hands.

2. Do you provide secure data destruction?

Cyber security can be a hurdle when it comes to recycling sensitive data containing equipment. To protect yourself and your brand, it's important that you ask what kind of data destruction services are available. For many corporate offices and healthcare facilities, proper data destruction is crucial to their business. Finding a certified and reliable e-recycler is essential to protecting the environment, as well as your own privacy and security. Finding the right company can be easy, so long as you get you information right.

3. Do you charge for pickups?

Disposing old electronics should not be another burden for you. Protecting the environment and making the responsible decision to recycle your old electronics should not come at a cost. Look for a recycler who provides this service for free. Also package all equipment for free.

4. What happens to my old electronics?

All discarded electronics are sorted and sent to a recycling facility where the items are taken apart. Different substances are sorted; hazardous materials are handled and other materials like plastics, metals, and glass are sorted into different streams so they can be made into new products. Hazardous materials like lead and mercury are handled appropriately and sent to facilities that deal with such items.

5. Can I throw electronics in trash?

Social responsibility can help people see your company as a positive force in society. Recycling old electronics responsibly demonstrates your dedication to fulfilling that responsibility. Dumping electronics in trash can cause toxic materials seep out into the environment, contaminating land, water and the air. Due to the presence of toxic materials and chemicals found in most electronic devices, many waste management companies do not accept old electronics in regular trash pickup or curbside recycling services. These same toxic materials also make it illegal to throw old electronics into the trash in many cities. To avoid being fined for damaging the environment, e-waste must be disposed of properly.

6. Do you have a proper facility?

Arguably one the most important steps in the process is the transportation of the electronics to an accredited electronics recycler. You want to make sure that you send your old electronics to a specialized facility that is capable of wiping private data from your devices before the recycling process. Furthermore, you need to ensure the facility is environmentally friendly and is committed to proper electronics recycling protocols. Next, many recycling facilities will offer transportation services to come and pick up the electronics for you – especially if you have a lot of heavy electronics to recycle. Otherwise, you can drop off the electronics yourself.

These questions to ask your e-waste recycler are a good starting point, as they provide a solid foundation to help you find the right company. Equip Recycling will be happy to answer all your questions and clear any doubts. Visit www.equiprecycling.com to book a free pickup this Summer!