



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
**SANTA CRUZ**

## **SORTING GUIDE**

FOR

# **ELECTRONIC RECYCLING**



1. Defining E-Waste
2. The Collection Groups
3. Sorting and Storing

# 1. What the heck is E-WASTE?

First of all, it's not waste. **All e-waste can either be recycled or reused.** People in the business call it IT Asset Disposition (ITAD) but you can call it e-waste if you want.

We need to sort **any** device powered by **electricity** (including batteries) or which contain a **circuit board**.

If it gets **plugged into a wall** then it's e-waste, and it can contaminate the environment if not disposed of correctly.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

<p><b>COMPUTERS AND PARTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Components</li> <li>● Monitors</li> <li>● Storage Devices (even CDs)</li> <li>● Keyboards</li> <li>● Mice</li> <li>● Printers/Scanners</li> <li>● Calculators</li> </ul> <p><b>HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Speakers</li> <li>● Stereo Equipment</li> <li>● Microwave Ovens</li> <li>● Coffee Makers</li> <li>● Toasters</li> <li>● Vacuums</li> </ul>	<p><b>LAB EQUIPMENT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hot plates</li> <li>● Microscopes</li> <li>● Calorimeters</li> </ul> <p><b>ELECTRIC APPLIANCES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● TVs</li> <li>● DVD Players</li> <li>● Cameras</li> <li>● MP3 Players</li> <li>● Cell Phones</li> </ul> <p><b>OTHER</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lamps</li> <li>● Clocks</li> <li>● Flashlights</li> <li>● Telephones</li> <li>● Cables</li> <li>● Batteries*</li> </ul>
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## THINGS THAT ARE NOT E-WASTE

- Vehicles and motor parts
- Plastic
- Metal (like a computer case)
- Moldy cheese
- Large appliances (refrigerators, ovens)

\*Batteries can't be grouped with other e-waste items, more info on p. 3

## 2. Ok, got it... I'll simply put the e-waste into a separate box.

**No!** At UCSC, we have no electronic disposal/recycle facility. This means we have to *pay* someone to pick it all up.

By *sorting our e-waste* we can actually *minimize the cost* of recycling. There are Three main pickup/sorting groups:

### UCSC Surplus Store:

This will most likely be the smallest group, and will be sorted for anything that can be sold to the public or the campus community.

### ECS Refining (UCSC's e-waste recycler):

This will be the largest group, and will be the most sorted. ECS takes *electronics that are at the end of their life or broken which cannot be sold by UCSC*. Rare metals can be stripped from circuit boards at their facilities and sold.

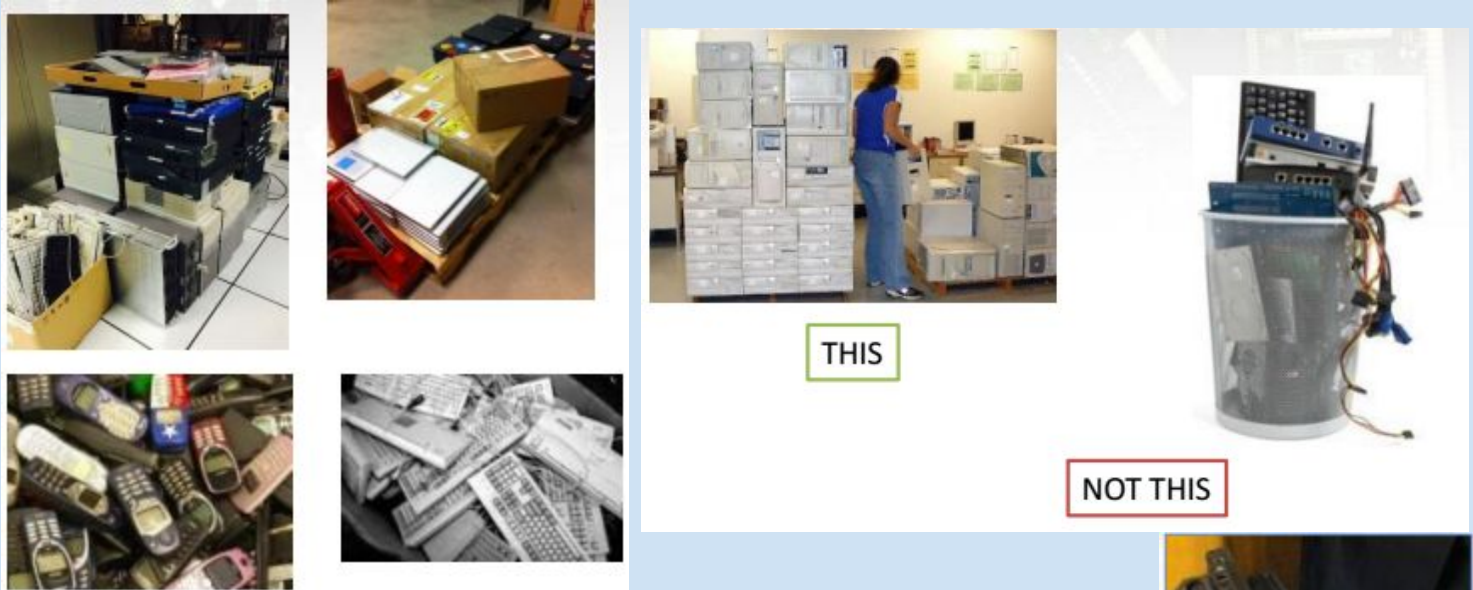
### UCSC Recycling:

This is where *non e-waste* items go after the electronic parts have been stripped off. All the *scrap metal and plastic* can be recycled here on campus, so there is no need to keep it with the rest of the outgoing e-waste.



### 3. Right, pile up three boxes then.

**Not quite...** It's important that we **sort the different kinds of electronic waste**, and store it efficiently.



#### Tips!

- Stack Computer towers on pallets and store laptops on their side.
- Circuit boards, hard drives, and external peripherals (keyboards, mice) can all be separated into their own groups, but there is no need to strip parts out of a complete computer.
- Group “kitchen” electronic items (remove glass plate out of microwave)
- Remove the dust bag from vacuums, or any other non-recyclable materials attached to or in an electronic waste item (to the best of your ability)
- Sometimes it's easy to rip the wires and circuit boards out of an electronic device and separate the plastic/metal.
- Try and remove the battery from the item whenever you can, they contain corrosive materials and cannot be processed with everything else.

These groups should definitely be separated

Batteries	Wires	Circuit Boards	Thermometers/ Smoke detectors	Monitors
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## In Conclusion...

- ❖ Recycling electronics correctly is important for the environment, and it saves money!
- ❖ Separate valuable, reusable electronics for the UCSC Surplus store, and old broken items for ECS pickup.
- ❖ Separate ECS pickup items by type to the best of your ability.
- ❖ Remove batteries and non-recyclable materials whenever you can.
- ❖ Keep sorted groups organized so they are easy to move and transport.
- ❖ Be smart! Use the space and storage effectively. If you have an abundance keyboards and think you can fill an entire gaylord, then do it! Only two of them? Combine with related items like mice and speakers

## Thanks for your hard work!

We really appreciate it, and you should feel good doing your part in saving the environment!

