



Frequently Asked Recycling Questions

Table of Contents

Automotive Products	Computers, Televisions and Other Electronic Equipment.....3
Antifreeze1	Fluorescent Bulbs.....3
Batteries, Automotive.....1	Glass3
Used Motor Oil, Filters and Bottles.....2	Packaging Peanuts.....3
Household Products	Paint3
Appliances2	Pesticides4
Batteries, Household2	Telephone Books.....4
Composting2	Unwanted Mail.....4

provide grant funding to local governments for recycling programs. Please note that the state has no other fees associated with the sale of lead-acid batteries. Retailers may charge additional environmental fees for recycling or proper disposal as a matter of company policy.

QUESTION: How do I recycle car, truck and lawn mower batteries?

ANSWER: Lead-acid batteries (e.g., car and truck batteries) must be recycled in South Carolina. You can recycle your old battery at the retail location where you bought your new battery. If you have an old battery that you need to recycle, but don't need to buy a new one, there are two options. First, some counties accept lead-acid batteries. Visit www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/recycle/counties.htm or call 1-800-768-7348 to see if this service is offered in your community. Second, check with area retail stores, car dealers and auto repair shops to see if they will accept your old battery for recycling.

Automotive Products

Antifreeze

QUESTION: How do I properly dispose of or recycle antifreeze?



ANSWER: Many South Carolina counties accept antifreeze in their recycling programs. Visit www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/recycle/counties.htm and click on the county in which you live to see if your community accepts antifreeze or to call your county recycling coordinator. Another option may be to check with your car dealer or mechanic to see if they will accept your antifreeze for recycling or proper disposal. If you still have questions, please call the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's (DHEC) Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling (Office) at 1-800-768-7348.

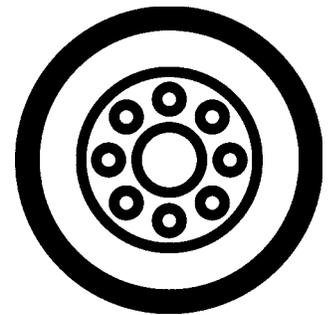
Batteries, Automotive

QUESTION: I just bought a new battery for my car. Why did I have to pay a \$2 fee on the new battery? They also put a \$5 charge and credit on my receipt. Why did they do that?

ANSWER: There is a \$7 fee added to the cost of a battery to ensure that it is recycled. If you return your old battery when you buy a battery, you will receive a \$5 credit and only be charged \$2. The funding is used to pay for DHEC's solid waste management and recycling activities and to

Tires

QUESTION: I just bought new tires. Why do I have to pay a \$2 tire fee per tire?



ANSWER: There is a \$2 fee per tire for each new tire sold in South Carolina with a U.S. Department of Transportation number. The fee is divided several ways, but mostly it is used by retailers or local governments to clean up waste tire piles and to recycle waste tires. Some funding is provided to do research to find new applications for waste tires including using waste tires in road paving. Before buying tires, ask the retailer if they accept the tires being replaced on your vehicle. The state has no other fees associated with the sale of tires. Retailers may charge additional environmental fees for recycling or proper disposal as a matter of company policy.

QUESTION: How do I recycle tires?

ANSWER: Most counties have collection programs that accept a maximum number of waste tires (usually about five). Visit www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/recycle/counties.htm and click on the county in which you live to find the collection site near you or call the Office at 1-800-768-7348.

Used Motor Oil, Filters and Bottles

QUESTION: How do I recycle gasoline or oil/gasoline mixtures?

ANSWER: Gasoline and oil/gasoline mixtures can be recycled at more than 60 collection sites in 40 counties. Visit www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/recycle/counties.htm and click on the county in which you live or call **1-800-768-7348** for a collection site near you.



QUESTION: How do I recycle used motor oil?

ANSWER: Used motor oil can be recycled at more than 800 sites across the state that include county and municipal recycling programs and retail outlets (e.g., Advance Auto, Auto Zone and some Jiffy Lubes). For a list of used oil recycling locations in your community, visit www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/recycle/counties.htm and click on the county in which you live or call **1-800-768-7348**.

QUESTION: How do I recycle or recycle used motor oil filters and bottles?

ANSWER: More than 40 counties accept used oil filters and oil bottles. Visit www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/recycle/counties.htm and click on the county in which you live or call **1-800-768-7348** for a local collection site.

Household Products

Appliances

QUESTION: I just bought several new appliances for my home. Why did I have to pay a \$2 fee on each of the appliances?



ANSWER: There is a \$2 fee on each appliance you purchase. The funding is used to pay for DHEC's solid waste management and recycling activities and to provide grant funding to local governments for recycling programs. Before buying a new appliance, ask the retailer to accept your old appliance. The state has no other fees associated with the sale of appliances. Retailers may charge additional environmental fees for recycling or proper disposal as a matter of company policy.

QUESTION: Can I recycle my large household appliances (e.g., refrigerators, stoves, washers and dryers)?

ANSWER: Most counties accept large appliances for recycling, either at designated locations or in some cases, they offer curbside pick up. For more information, visit www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/recycle/counties.htm or call **1-800-768-7348**.

Batteries, Household

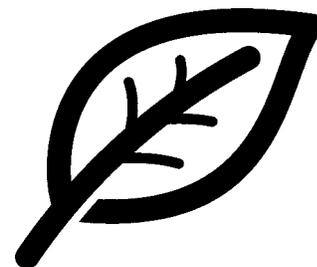
QUESTION: How do I properly dispose of or recycle household batteries?

ANSWER: Household batteries (e.g., alkaline batteries for CD players, radios, television remotes and toys) can be disposed of with your household garbage. Alkaline batteries were of particular environmental concern because they contained mercury. In the past decade or so, the batteries have been redesigned and no mercury added. The only mercury found in an alkaline battery is what naturally occurs as a trace element in other metals. In addition, many manufacturers are designing batteries for a longer life. You also can be a more selective and environmentally friendly consumer. Consider buying rechargeable batteries.

Nickel cadmium batteries, nickel-metal hydride and lithium ion batteries (e.g., rechargeable batteries for tools, toys, cellular phones, video cameras, digital cameras, hand-held vacuums and laptop computers) can be recycled at many retail stores including Radio Shack, Target, Ace Hardware, Best Buy, Sears, The Home Depot and Office Depot. There are more than 700 retail locations in South Carolina that accept these types of batteries. Visit www.rbr.org/call2recycle or call **1-800-8-BATTERY** for a retail location near you.

Composting

QUESTION: I would like to compost in my backyard. Where can I get some simple advice on how to compost correctly?



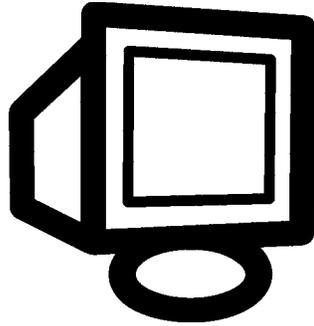
ANSWER: The Office provides basic information on backyard composting at www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/recycle/compost.htm as well as www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/recycle/pubs/backyard_composting.pdf. In addition, the Office offers technical assistance and training through its Smart Gardner program that includes a comprehensive handbook on composting, naturescaping, smart watering, natural pest and disease control and more. The handbook is available at www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/recycle/compost.htm. Contact your county recycling coordinator to see if Smart Gardner workshops are available in your community. (Visit www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/recycle/counties.htm and click on the county in which you live for contact

information.) The Office also offers a booklet called “Home Composting Made Easy.” Call **1-800-768-7348** for a free copy of the booklet or for more information on composting.

Computers, Televisions and Other Electronic Equipment

QUESTION: How do I recycle computers, televisions or other electronic equipment from my home?

ANSWER: If the equipment still works, consider donating it to a non-profit organization. If it does not work or you cannot donate it, check with your local recycling coordinator about recycling options in your community. Contact information is available at www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/recycle/counties.htm and click on the county in which you live or call **1-800-768-7348**. Many counties offer permanent programs or one-day collection events to accept household electronics. For a copy of the fact sheet “For Your Information (FYI): Electronics Recycling Options for Households,” visit www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/recycle/pubs/e-waste_2.pdf. For a copy of the fact sheet “FYI: Electronic Waste,” visit www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/recycle/pubs/e-wastepdf.pdf. For a copy of the “Electronic Waste Advisory,” visit www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/recycle/pubs/ewtv_adv.pdf.



QUESTION: Can I buy an environmentally friendly computer?

ANSWER: Yes – you can be a more selective and environmentally friendly consumer. Consider upgrading your computer or leasing a computer instead of buying a new one. Before buying a new computer or other electronic equipment, ask the retailer if they have a “takeback” program that allows consumers to bring back old computers and other electronic equipment. In addition, you can buy an environmentally friendly computer. The Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) is an easy-to-use, on-line tool to help you select and compare computer desktops, laptops and monitors based on their environmental attributes. For more information, visit www.epeat.net.

QUESTION: How can I recycle my cell phone?

ANSWER: Recycling cell phones is easy. Virtually all cell phone service providers and retailers offer a drop-off or mail-in service. The U.S. EPA’s ReCycle Your Cell Phone – It’s an Easy Call program provides information on recycling services from various phone makers, retailers and service providers. Visit www.epa.gov/epawaste/partnerships/plugin/cellphone/cell-recycling-locations.htm for more information.

Fluorescent Bulbs

QUESTION: What can I do with old fluorescent bulbs?

ANSWER: It’s best to recycle fluorescent bulbs. While there are only a few county or municipal recycling programs in South Carolina that accept fluorescent bulbs, there are other options. Some counties hold single-day collection events. Additionally, The Home Depot accepts compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) and other national retailers have offered pilot programs. Visit www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/recycle/counties.htm and click on the county in which you live to see if CFLs are accepted in your community or if a collection is scheduled.

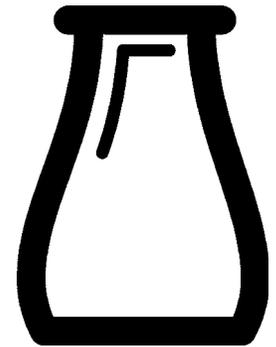
QUESTION: How do I clean up a broken CFL at home?

ANSWER: The U.S. EPA recommends specific clean-up and disposal guidelines for broken bulbs. Visit www.scdhec.gov/environment/admin/Mercury/merc_5.pdf for step-by-step instructions.

Glass

QUESTION: Where can glass be recycled if it is not accepted by my curbside program?

ANSWER: Many counties have recycling centers that accept glass bottles and jars for recycling. Visit www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/recycle/compost.htm or call **1-800-768-7348** to find out if glass is accepted at a recycling center in your community. It is not necessary to remove the labels, but you should remove the lids. Window glass, mirrors, Pyrex, light bulbs, ceramics and drinking glasses are NOT accepted for recycling.



Packaging Peanuts

QUESTION: What can I do with packaging peanuts?

ANSWER: Don’t throw them away. Save them and use them when you need to mail a package. If you don’t want to do that, most stores that mail packages will accept the peanuts and reuse them.

Paint

QUESTION: How do I properly dispose of or recycle paint?

ANSWER: If the paint still can be used, try to donate it to a non-profit, church or school in your community. Many

counties also accept usable latex paint from citizens. These counties include Aiken, Barnwell, Charleston (also accepts oil-based paint), Darlington, Fairfield, Greenville, Hampton, Horry, Lancaster, Pickens, Spartanburg and York. Other local governments may offer single-day collection events. If your county is not listed above, please contact your local recycling coordinator or solid waste management director for the proper disposal methods in your community. Visit www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/recycle/counties.htm and click on the county in which you live or call **1-800-768-7348** for contact information. In general, you can prepare paint for proper disposal by completing the following steps: 1) remove the lid and allow the paint to air dry (harden) completely. Make sure you do this in a well-ventilated area away from children and pets. You can add cat litter, shredded newspaper, saw dust or sand to the paint to speed up the drying process; 2) stir occasionally; and 3) once the paint is completely dried, you can dispose of it with your household garbage.

Pesticides

QUESTION: What can I do with old pesticides?

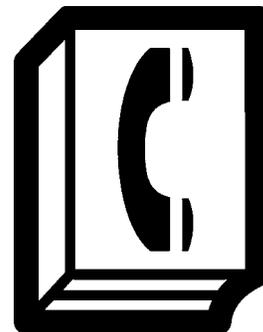
ANSWER: These are very difficult materials to properly manage. All pesticide products have disposal instructions on their label. Read and follow the directions. If the product is still sold in stores and the label is still readable, use it or try to give it to someone or an organization that can use it. Some local governments offer permanent household hazardous materials collection programs (e.g., Charleston, Horry and York counties). Other local governments may offer single-day collection events. If offered, you can take your pesticides to such an event. Check with your local recycling coordinator to see if such an event is scheduled. Contact information is available at www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/recycle/counties.htm and click on the county in which you live or call **1-800-768-7348**. Also, consider minimizing the use of pesticides. Visit www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/recycle/compost.htm and click on the "Natural Pest, Weed & Disease Control" link from the "Smart Gardner Handbook."



Telephone Books

QUESTION: Where can I recycle my telephone book?

ANSWER: Because there is no market or an area end-user for recycling telephone books, there is not an on-going collection process for these books. To prevent old phone books from going into the landfill, Keep the Midlands Beautiful and BellSouth Advertising and Publishing sponsors a telephone book recycling program each February. Store your phone books in an out-of-the-way place and save them for recycling in February.



Unwanted Mail

QUESTION: How do I stop unwanted mail?

ANSWER: To reduce unwanted mail, be sure to check the "do not sell my name" option that most credit card applications and catalogues now offer. In addition, send a postcard or letter to DMA Mail Preference Service, P.O. Box 9008, Farmingdale, NY, 11735-9008 requesting that they remove your name from mailing lists. Be sure to include your name, address, zip code and a request to "activate the preference service." This will stop mail from all member organizations that you have not ordered products from for up to 5 years.

QUESTION: Can I recycle unwanted mail?

ANSWER: It depends. If it is printed on newsprint (like a newspaper insert), you can recycle it with your newspapers. Glossy paper (e.g., magazines and other miscellaneous slick circulars) is commonly accepted in curbside and drop-off programs. If it is regular mail, printed on white paper, you can recycle it with office paper. Office paper is not accepted in most curbside programs. You may be able to take office paper to a local drop-off facility, your office or your child's school.



Office of Solid Waste
Reduction & Recycling
1-800-768-7348 ● www.scdhec.gov/recycle

DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling FYIs provide general information on environmental topics. Readers are encouraged to reproduce this material. For more information about solid waste issues, please call **1-800-768-7348** or visit our Web site at www.scdhec.gov/recycle. Please send written correspondence to: DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201.