

2.1.7 Environmental Facts

This lesson covers the following topics:

- Hazardous waste disposal
- Safe device use

Hazardous Waste Disposal

It is important to ensure that equipment and hazardous chemicals are disposed of properly.

- Consult the manufacturer's documentation for recommended solutions for equipment disposal.
- Consult an MSDS for information on physical data, toxicity, health effects, first aid, storage, disposal, and spill procedures for disposal of hazardous chemicals. You can download an MSDS from the manufacturer's website or check with a representative of that company.

The following table offers suggestions for disposing of used equipment:

Component or Material	Disposal Method
Alkaline Batteries	Recycle, if possible, otherwise dispose of alkaline batteries as your local laws require. For example, in some states, you can throw them in the regular trash. In California, it is illegal to throw them in the common trash. They are considered hazardous waste and are supposed to go with the household hazardous waste collection for special recycling.
Button Batteries	These are considered hazardous waste because they contain mercuric oxide, lithium, silver oxide or zinc-air. Return to manufacturer, recycle, or contact local authorities for disposal procedures.
Lithium and Lithium Ion Batteries	Recycle these; lithium batteries are considered a non-hazardous waste.
Nickel-Cadmium (NiCad) Batteries	These are considered hazardous waste; take these batteries to either a household hazardous waste site or a recycling center.
Nickel Metal Hydride (NiMH) Batteries	Recycle these; NiMH batteries are considered a non-hazardous waste in most U.S. States, with the exception of California.
CRT Monitor	Contact local authorities for recycling these. CRTs contain many toxic and caustic substances that are illegal to incinerate. Also, discharge before disposal (CRTs can contain high voltages).
PC System	Recycle, give it away, or resell it; a typical PC contains \$5 to \$25 worth of precious metals. Remember to clean the hard drive before disposing of the machine.
Power Supply	Contact local authorities. Recycle, if possible. Discharge before disposal (contains high voltages).
Laser Printer Toner Cartridges	Return to the manufacturer for recycling (to clean up spills, use a toner vacuum or a scoop and a damp cloth; never use a regular vacuum).
Inkjet Printer Cartridges	Recycle; you can return the cartridges to the manufacturer for recycling or recycle them yourself.
Cleaning Solutions and Solvents	Consult the MSDS, a licensed disposal organization, or local authorities for handling and authorized disposal procedures.

Safe Device Use

Be safety-minded when using devices as well. Avoid the temptation to use mobile devices, such as tablets and cell phones, while walking and driving.

