How to dispose of your old computer and/or hard drive…

The first thing you want to do is backup your data to another source. Ensure all old photos, games, music, and other documents have been saved to an external source.

After ensuring the data has been saved elsewhere, the next thing to do is wipe the hard drive. Delete all files and perform an operating system hard-reset. Make sure to leave the computer and hard drive empty of all sensitive or personal information.

Donate or resell: you may be able to pass the computing device to friends or family, however there are organizations that supply working laptops and computers to at-risk students and families.

Whatever you choose to do with your old computing devices, do not dispose of them in the conventional trash as they contain hazardous chemicals. Below is a list of electronic recyclers in or near Seattle:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Location** | **Hours** | **Materials handled** |
| e-Cycle Washington logo[3R Technology](https://kingcounty.gov/depts/dnrp/solid-waste/programs/take-it-back/electronics/detail.aspx?ID=309) 206-582-7100 | 8002 S 208th St Kent, WA | Mon-Fri 8am-4pm | Audio Video and Camera equipment, Cell Phones and Smart Devices, Computers, Copiers, Fax Machines, Gaming Devices, Laptops, Monitors, Peripherals, TVs, Tablets, Printers |
| e-Cycle Washington logo[3R Technology - Partner Site](https://kingcounty.gov/depts/dnrp/solid-waste/programs/take-it-back/electronics/detail.aspx?ID=804) 206-582-7100 | 16904 Juanita Dr NE Kenmore, WA | Mon-Fri: 8am - 5pm Sat: 9am - 3pm Call first to confirm | Audio Video and Camera equipment, Cell Phones and Smart Devices, Copiers, Fax Machines, Gaming Devices, Laptops, Monitors, Peripherals, Printers, Tablets, Computers |
| e-Cycle Washington logo[Busby Junk Removal LLC](https://kingcounty.gov/depts/dnrp/solid-waste/programs/take-it-back/electronics/detail.aspx?ID=584) 877-404-5865 | Pick-up service only Pick-up service only | Mon-Sun: 9am - 5pm | Cell Phones and Smart Devices, Computers, Copiers, Fax Machines, Gaming Devices, Laptops, Monitors, Peripherals, Printers, TVs, Tablets, Audio Video and Camera equipment |
| e-Cycle Washington logo[Electronics Recyclers International](https://kingcounty.gov/depts/dnrp/solid-waste/programs/take-it-back/electronics/detail.aspx?ID=793) 800-374-3473 | 3901 150th Ave Court E Suite 200 Sumner, WA | Mon-Fri: 8am-2:30pm | Cell Phones and Smart Devices, Computers, Copiers, Fax Machines, Gaming Devices, Laptops, Monitors, Peripherals, Printers, TVs, Tablets, Audio Video and Camera equipment |
| e-Cycle Washington logo[Friendly Earth](https://kingcounty.gov/depts/dnrp/solid-waste/programs/take-it-back/electronics/detail.aspx?ID=742) 206-367-4111 | 1560 1st Ave S Seattle, WA | Mon-Fri: 9am - 5pm | Cell Phones and Smart Devices, Computers, Copiers, Fax Machines, Laptops, Monitors, Peripherals, Printers, TVs, Tablets, Audio Video and Camera equipment |
| e-Cycle Washington logo[InterConnection](https://kingcounty.gov/depts/dnrp/solid-waste/programs/take-it-back/electronics/detail.aspx?ID=163) 206-633-1517 | 1121 N 35th St. Seattle, WA | Mon - Fri: 10am - 3pm | Cell Phones and Smart Devices, Computers, Copiers, Fax Machines, Gaming Devices, Laptops, Monitors, Peripherals, TVs, Tablets, Printers |
| e-Cycle Washington logo[PC Recycle and Repair - Woodinville](https://kingcounty.gov/depts/dnrp/solid-waste/programs/take-it-back/electronics/detail.aspx?ID=686) 425 881-4444 | 5817 238th St SE Suite 4 Woodinville, WA | Mon-Fri: 8am - 4pm, Sat 10am - 2pm | Cell Phones and Smart Devices, Computers, Copiers, Fax Machines, Gaming Devices, Laptops, Monitors, Peripherals, Printers, TVs, Tablets, Audio Video and Camera equipment |
| e-Cycle Washington logo[RE-PC Recycled Computers and Peripherals](https://kingcounty.gov/depts/dnrp/solid-waste/programs/take-it-back/electronics/detail.aspx?ID=15) 206-623-9151 | 1565 6th Ave. S Seattle, WA | Mon-Sat: 10am - 7pm | Audio Video and Camera equipment, Cell Phones and Smart Devices, Computers, Copiers, Fax Machines, Gaming Devices, Laptops, Peripherals, Printers, TVs, Tablets, Monitors |
| e-Cycle Washington logo[RE-PC Recycled Computers and Peripherals](https://kingcounty.gov/depts/dnrp/solid-waste/programs/take-it-back/electronics/detail.aspx?ID=23) 206-575-8737 | 600 Andover Park E Tukwila, WA | Mon-Sat: 10am - 7pm | Audio Video and Camera equipment, Cell Phones and Smart Devices, Computers, Copiers, Fax Machines, Gaming Devices, Laptops, Monitors, Peripherals, TVs, Tablets, Printers |

*\*Information taken from* [https://kingcounty.gov/](https://kingcounty.gov/depts/dnrp/solid-waste/programs/take-it-back/electronics.aspx)

Should you remove your hard drive before recycling?

While erasing a hard drive before recycling will help prevent your data from being stolen, going a step further and destroying the data will GUARANTEE that it is safe.

You can destroy a hard drive a number of creative ways:

- drilling through the hard drive

- smash it will a hammer

- set it on fire

- magnetizing the hard drive