

Why are you charging to recycle electronics? Aren't they valuable?

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These prices are based on our cost of properly and safely performing this service. Declining commodity prices, transportation costs and handling plastic waste are a few key factors in today's economy. Below we aim to describe these factors in more detail.

Stagnant or Declining Commodity Prices

Prices for key commodities recovered from electronics have stayed relatively flat or even declined. When inflation is taken into account, these trends are magnified. Copper and gold in particular have both declined in value since 2013. Additionally, every passing year fewer precious metals are being used in the manufacturing of new electronics.

Transportation Costs

This year transportation costs have risen dramatically. There is a significant shortage of truck drivers nation-wide, despite an average pay increase of 15% in 2018. This has created an incredibly competitive market to find and keep CDL-A semi-truck drivers. In addition, the price of skids and boxes have also increased.

Recycling Plastics

Plastics are a key component to most electronics that come through our door. Historically, 90% of plastic waste in the United States has been exported to China for recycling and reuse. Earlier this year, China banned the import of plastics which has made processing this material incredibly expensive. The few domestic recyclers that processed plastics don't have the capacity or market to handle the current demand.



COMPRENEW

CRT TELEVISIONS & MONITORS

These devices are a significant environmental concern because each unit contains approximately 5 - 10 pounds of lead. Lead and CRT glass are no longer in demand or used in many recycled products. CRTs are also bulky and difficult to transport.

FLAT SCREEN TVS & MONITORS

Many LCD TVs and monitors are manufactured with fluorescent bulbs that contain mercury. Safely dismantling these items is time consuming and expensive.

MINI FRIDGES, DEHUMIDIFIERS, & AIR CONDITIONING UNITS

Cooling agents such as Freon require specialized training to safely remove from these products.

HOME AUDIO & GAMING

These products have an inconsistent resale market and are primarily manufactured with plastics and some devices contain data which must be removed.

PRINTERS / INK / TONER

Unfortunately since the price of new printers has dropped in recent years, it is more cost effective to buy these new rather than to refurbish them. Recycling printers is expensive since they are manufactured with so much plastic. Some ink and toner contains carcinogens.

BATTERIES

Processing and sorting batteries require special measures because some are flammable or explosive if handled improperly.

UNINTERRUPTABLE POWER SUPPLIES

These units are quite heavy. Much of that weight comes from the batteries that are inside.

VHS & DISC MEDIA

The cases for VHS and disc media, along with the VHS tapes themselves are entirely plastic, which has increased recycling costs.

MICROWAVES

Microwaves require a lot of labor to properly dismantle, take up a lot of space, and do not contain a significant amount of metal value.

MISC. ELECTRONICS

Miscellaneous electronics are made up of mostly plastic and don't typically contain precious metals or large circuit boards.

Comprenew ensures that your electronics are properly recycled and not landfilled or incinerated. Thank you!

