



# E-Cycle Wisconsin Guidance on Definitions of Covered Devices

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## Purpose

This document provides additional clarification for definitions of electronic devices under Wisconsin's electronics recycling law. Given rapid changes in consumer electronics, the examples in this document may not cover all current products. If you have questions about whether a specific device meets any of these definitions, contact [DNRWle-cycling@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRWle-cycling@wisconsin.gov).

## Background

Wisconsin's electronics recycling law defines two categories of devices: **covered electronic devices** and **eligible electronic devices**.

**Covered electronic devices** are the electronics manufacturers must register with the Department of Natural Resources if they are marketed to Wisconsin households or K-12 schools. Registered manufacturers are also responsible for recycling a target amount of electronics each year, based on the weight of covered electronics sold to these groups during a specific period. The list of covered electronic devices is defined under s. 287.17 (1) (f), Wis. Stats., with further details provided in s. NR 530.04, Wis. Adm. Code.

**Eligible electronic devices** are electronics that count toward manufacturer recycling targets. They include covered electronics as well as additional types of devices. Eligible electronics are collected from households and covered schools for recycling under E-Cycle Wisconsin. The list of eligible electronic devices is defined under s. 287.17 (1) (gs), Wis. Stats., and s. NR 530.05, Wis. Adm. Code.

The electronics recycling law also contains a list of devices **banned from disposal in Wisconsin landfills and incinerators**. The box graphic on this page contains a list of these devices.

### Electronics banned from disposal in Wisconsin (s. 287.07 (5), Wis. Stats.)

- Consumer computers
- Consumer printers
- Consumer video display devices
- Computer peripherals
- DVD players, VCRs, digital video players/recorders
- Cellphones/telephones with a video display

## Definitions of covered electronic devices

**Covered** electronic devices include:

- consumer computers;
- consumer printers; and
- consumer video display devices with a screen of at least 7" in the longest diagonal direction.

### Consumer computer

"Consumer computer" means a high-speed data processing device for performing logical, arithmetic or storage functions. Consumer computers include any of the following, if marketed by a manufacturer for use by households or covered schools:

- all-in-one desktop-style computers with a screen that is integrated with the processor;
- laptop, netbook or notebook computers;
- servers;
- tablet computers;
- thin clients or other computers that run from resources stored on a server instead of a local hard drive;
- tower or box desktop-style computers without a built-in monitor;
- components of a video game system that meet the definition of a consumer computer (such as game consoles); and

- any other electronic devices that meet the definition of a consumer computer and are not specifically excluded.

Consumer computers do **not** include:

- automated typewriter or typesetters; or
- portable hand-held calculators or devices, such as mobile phones with a screen size of *less than 7"* in the longest diagonal direction.

### **Consumer printer**

“Consumer printer” includes the following types of devices if marketed by a manufacturer for use by households or covered schools:

- desktop printers, including 3-D, inkjet and laser printers that can be placed on a work surface; and
- devices that print and have other functions, such as copying, scanning, or sending facsimiles, and are designed to be placed on a work surface.

“Consumer printer” does not include:

- calculators with printing capabilities, label makers or similar household printing devices;
- floor-standing printers;
- automated teller machines, as defined in s. 134.85 (1) (a), Wis. Stats.; or
- point-of-sale receipt printers.

### **Consumer video display device**

“Consumer video display device” means a **computer monitor or television** with a screen that is at least 7” in its longest diagonal measurement and is marketed by a manufacturer for use by households or covered schools.

The following are **not** considered consumer video display devices under the law:

- A television or computer monitor that is part of a motor vehicle and that is incorporated into the motor vehicle by, or for, a motor vehicle manufacturer or a franchised motor vehicle dealer (e.g., a computer monitor or television that was built into the vehicle *before it was sold*).
- A television or computer monitor contained within a clothes washer, clothes dryer, refrigerator, freezer, microwave oven, conventional oven or stove, dishwasher, room air conditioner, dehumidifier, or air purifier.
- Any video display device that is not marketed for use by households or schools (such as displays in equipment only used in specific industrial/commercial settings).

### **Computer monitor**

“Computer monitor” means an electronic device with a cathode ray tube or flat panel display primarily intended to display information from a consumer computer or the internet. Computer monitors include any of the following if they have a screen of at least 7” in the longest diagonal direct and are marketed by a manufacturer for use by households or covered schools:

- video displays used with a consumer computer (including portable monitors);
- video displays intended to display video or other content from the internet;
- smart home devices;
- e-readers or other portable electronic devices that display information from the internet or a processor (e.g., digital picture frames, portable video players); and
- any other electronic device that meets the definition of a computer monitor and is not specifically excluded from the definition of a video display device.

### **Television**

“Television” means an electronic device with a cathode ray tube or flat panel display primarily intended to receive video programming via broadcast, cable or satellite transmission, or to receive video images from surveillance or similar cameras.

All types of televisions with a screen of at least 7” In the longest diagonal direction are covered electronic devices if they are marketed by a manufacturer for use by households or covered schools, including:

- box-style, cathode ray tube (CRT) displays;

- liquid crystal displays (LCDs);
- light-emitting diode/organic light-emitting diode (LED/OLED) displays;
- plasma displays;
- rear projection displays; and
- security system displays.

## Definitions of eligible electronic devices

**Eligible** electronic devices include **all covered electronics**, as well as the following types of devices:

- computer peripherals;
- digital video recorders/players;
- DVD players;
- fax machines;
- telephones with a video display (e.g., cellphones);
- telephone accessories operated by a battery;
- VCRs; and
- video game system components and portable hand-held video game devices operated by a battery.

### Computer peripheral

Computer peripheral (defined as “peripheral” under s. 287. 17, Wis. Stats.) means a keyboard or any other device, other than a consumer printer, that provides input into or output from a consumer computer and is sold exclusively for external use with a consumer computer.

Examples of computer peripherals include:

- external CD/DVD drives;
- external hard drives/backup drives;
- external modems;
- flash drives/memory sticks for use with computers;
- game controllers (joysticks, etc.) used with a computer;
- keyboards;
- mice;
- projectors (LCD, LED, etc.) used with a consumer computer;
- scanners;
- speakers used with a computer; and
- webcams or similar cameras specifically for use with a computer.

### Telephone with a video display

“Telephone with a video display” includes a smartphone or other cellphone with a video display, as well as other types of phones with a video display.

### Telephone accessories operated by a battery

This category of eligible devices is not banned from disposal. Examples of telephone accessories operated by a battery include:

- headphones, headsets or earbuds that pair with cellphones;
- mobile hotspots;
- phone chargers;
- photography/videography accessories (e.g., selfie sticks, lights, microphones, remotes); and
- portable speakers that pair with cellphones.

## Video game system components and portable hand-held video game devices

Under s. NR 530.05, Wis. Adm. Code, “a component of a video game system or a portable hand-held video game device operated by a battery that does not meet the definition of a computer monitor or consumer computer” is considered an eligible electronic device. This category of devices is not banned from disposal.

Examples of battery-operated devices eligible under this category include:

- game controllers or other peripherals that provide input to a video gaming device and are powered by a battery);
- headphones and headsets designed to work with video game systems;
- portable gaming devices, including virtual reality headsets, with a screen of less than 7” in the longest diagonal direction; and
- other battery-operated video game accessories.



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