

Large Appliance Recycling Guide



Major household and commercial appliances are banned from landfills in Wisconsin and should be reused or recycled. If reuse is not an option, metals and other materials in used appliances can be recycled into new products. Large appliances include: air conditioners, clothes washers and dryers, dishwashers, freezers, microwave ovens, ovens and stoves, refrigerators, furnaces, boilers, dehumidifiers and water heaters.

In many places in Wisconsin, appliances are not picked up at the curb with other recyclables, nor are they accepted at many general recycling drop-off sites. A list of options for managing your appliances is on the back of this publication. Contact each option you are considering in advance to confirm that they will accept your particular appliance for reuse or recycling.

Freezers, heaters, air conditioners and refrigerators need special treatment. Before choosing where to have these appliances recycled, go to dnr.wi.gov and search "refrigerant" to find a list of businesses that are certified to safely transport these appliances and registered to safely recover the refrigerants inside of them.

Places to Recycle Appliances

Reuse/Resale

Various charitable organizations accept used appliances for repair and resale. Organizations that might accept used appliances include Habitat for Humanity Restore, Salvation Army, St. Vincent de Paul or similar charities. Contact them in advance to ask if they will accept your particular appliance.

Appliance stores or appliance repair shops

The easiest way to recycle an old appliance is to have it taken away when a new appliance is delivered. Many appliance retailers will offer to recycle your old appliances, but they may charge a fee for this service. When making a purchase, be sure to ask about the store's recycling program.

Local municipalities

Some communities provide appliance collection services, either as part of garbage collection or at a separate collection location. Contact your local public works department to see what is available for appliances in your area. You may need to purchase a sticker, pay for pickup or take the appliance to a collection site.

Private waste companies

If a private waste company collects your household recyclables, it may also take appliances either at the curb or at a special drop-off location. An added fee may be required. Contact your waste company for details.

Locate a recycler - Earth911.org

The website Earth911.com has a "Recycling Locator" that allows you locate nearby recyclers by entering your city or ZIP code and the item you wish to recycle.

Scrap yards and recycling centers

Scrap yards and recycling centers often accept appliances for recycling. For many appliances, there is no fee, but most sites will charge for appliances with cooling elements. If you are taking your refrigerant-containing appliances to a scrap yard or recycling center, check to make sure the location is on the DNR's list of registered refrigerant-removal sites: dnr.wi.gov, search "refrigerant."



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