



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Department of Toxic Substances Control

News Release

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THE DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL REMINDS CALIFORNIANS TO PROPERLY RECYCLE OLD TV'S AFTER JUNE 12 SWITCH TO DIGITAL

SACRAMENTO – The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) reminds Californians that, as the TV switch from analog to digital approaches on June 12, and residents replace older analog televisions with new digital sets, they cannot throw out their old ones. All televisions with a glass picture tube, also known as a cathode ray tube or CRT, contain lead and have to be disposed of properly, preferably through recycling.

Lead is a toxic metal that can cause harm to adults and children. It can affect almost every organ in the human body, but is best known for damaging the nervous system including decreased mental ability and learning difficulties in infants. Exposure to very high levels of lead can cause death. Although the lead in electronic wastes such as televisions and monitors is in the glass, when disposed of in a regular landfill, the conditions there will cause the lead to come out of the glass and potentially find its way off site and into drinking water sources.

Televisions with a CRT glass tube contain several pounds of lead each and are considered a hazardous waste when disposed. California law prohibits disposal of CRT televisions in the trash. It is also against state law for a household to deliberately break the glass of CRT televisions. Only a facility that has notified DTSC in advance and has met various other regulatory requirements may break the glass.

Not all analog televisions will be obsolete after June 12. Televisions that receive a signal from cable or satellite will still function normally after the digital switch, and analog televisions that use an antenna can be fitted with a converter box to receive over the air digital signals.

DTSC urges those who are replacing their televisions to locate collectors and recyclers authorized to take unwanted televisions and other electronic waste. A fee charged on the purchase of new television and certain other electronic devices helps fund collection and recycling of old video display devices, so many collectors will accept your television

for free, or charge only a nominal fee. To find a collector near you, please visit www.erecycle.org. If you have questions about how to properly manage electronic waste under California law, see [DTSC's electronic waste Web site](#); e-mail DTSC's Consumer Products Section electronicwaste@dtsc.ca.gov, or call (916) 324-3159.

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FOR GENERAL INQUIRIES: Contact the Department of Toxic Substances Control by phone at (800) 728-6942 or visit www.dtsc.ca.gov. To report illegal handling, discharge, or disposal of hazardous waste, call the Waste Alert Hotline at (800) 698-6942.

The mission of the Department of Toxic Substances Control is to protect public health, safety, and the environment from toxic harm.