



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Department of Toxic Substances Control

News Release

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“WATCH BEFORE YOU TOSS” VIDEO ENCOURAGES RECYCLING ANALOG TELEVISIONS

See it on the Department of Toxic Substances Control Web Site

SACRAMENTO -The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) launched a video on its Web site, (www.dtsc.ca.gov) to remind Californians – those who are responding to the analog-to-digital broadcast switch this summer by purchasing new digital televisions – that their old analog sets have to be disposed of properly. The video seeks to prevent residents from throwing old televisions in the trash or abandoning them by providing consumers with instructions, on how to find a local recycler.

Analog television screens are made out of cathode ray tubes or CRTs. CRTs also used as computer monitors, automated teller machines, and video game machines. Depending on the size, the glass screens can contain several pounds of lead. When CRTs are disposed of in a regular landfill, the screens are broken, the glass pulverized, and the lead escapes the glass, potentially threatening drinking water sources.

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.

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.ecycle.org. If you have questions about how to properly manage electronic waste under California law, see www.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