

Recycling Computers & Phones

Keeping Your Data Safe &
Helping the Environment 

Why Recycling Matters

- Old devices contain harmful materials
- They contain valuable metals like gold
- Recycling reduces landfill waste
- It protects the UK environment

What Can Be Recycled?

- Desktop computers
- Laptops
- Mobile phones
- Tablets
- Keyboards, mice, printers, cables

UK Law – WEEE Regulations

WEEE = Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment

- Shops must take old items when buying new ones
- Councils must provide recycling options
- Recycling is your legal right

Step 1 – Back Up Your Data

- Save photos and documents
- Use external hard drive
- Use cloud storage
- Ask for help if unsure

Step 2 – Sign Out of Accounts

- Sign out of email
- Remove Apple/Google accounts
- Log out of banking apps
- Turn off Find My Device

Step 3 - VERY IMPORTANT

Move into your new device
BEFORE you reset the old one

Step 4 – Factory Reset

- iPhone: Settings → Reset
- Android: Settings → System → Reset
- Windows: Settings → Recovery
- Mac: System Settings → Erase All Content and Settings

Remove SIM & Memory Cards

- Remove SIM card
- Remove SD card
- Keep or destroy safely

Where to Recycle in the UK

- Local council recycling centres
- Electronics retailers e.g. Currys
- Supermarkets (small items)
- Charity shops (e.g. BHF accepts working items)
- Specialist recycling shops or web sites (e.g. Music Magpie)
- Debenham Green team
<https://www.debenhamgreenteam.co.uk/>

Avoid Scams

- Do not give devices to strangers
- Avoid doorstep collectors
- Never share passwords
- Stick to official retailers or the Council

What Happens After Recycling?

- For devices that are not working;
 - Devices dismantled
 - Metals recovered
 - Plastics reused
 - Hazardous parts safely handled
- Working devices are refurbished (e.g. new batteries) and resold.

What NOT to Do

- Do not put electronics in normal bins especially those containing batteries.
- Do not burn devices
- Do not throw batteries in general waste

Recycling Accessories

Don't forget to recycle accessories;

- Chargers
- Cables
- Keyboards
- Batteries in dedicated bins

Recycling Checklist

- ✓ Back up data
- ✓ Sign out of accounts
- ✓ Move into new device
- ✓ Factory reset
- ✓ Remove SIM/SD cards
- ✓ Use official recycling point

Questions

Mendlesham Computer Club

By Giles Godart-Brown