



Where to Recycle E-Waste in Singapore: Pick the Right Route

Description

Do not put batteries or electronics in blue recycling or general bins. Use NEA's map and choose by item: small ICT devices, listed batteries and bulbs can use suitable e-bins; bulky appliances need retailer take-back, a drive, doorstep collection or the applicable bulky-item route.

[NEA e-waste collection guide](#): NEA identifies accepted e-waste categories, bin openings, retailer take-back, collection drives, doorstep services and battery handling. [NEA recycling guide](#): NEA's recycling guide says e-waste does not belong in blue bins and explains safe battery preparation. [NEA data-bearing device advice](#): NEA advises backing up data, signing out and factory-resetting data-bearing devices before recycling.

Choose the item category first

Fact pattern	Evidence or decision
Small phone, router or power bank fits 500mm by 250mm slot	Use an ICT-accepting 3-in-1 bin
Rechargeable or 9-volt battery	Tape terminals before using the correct battery bin
Long tube or bulky appliance	Use collection drive, retailer or doorstep route
Phone or computer holds personal data	Erase data before handover and remove accounts or cards

Where regulated e-waste can go

Match the icon before depositing. A nearby bin may accept only batteries or lamps. Read the programme and item icons instead of leaving rejected items beside it.

Prepare batteries for fire safety. Tape terminals or wires on rechargeable and specified batteries and seal leaking batteries in a leak-proof container or bag.

Protect data and damaged batteries

Use one-for-one retailer take-back. For regulated products, retailers have take-back obligations in specified situations. Arrange the handover when the replacement is delivered.

A disposal route for common devices

Back up what is needed, sign out, remove SIM and storage cards, factory-reset and verify the reset where possible. Recycling does not replace this step.

Before leaving home

A household has a laptop, power bank, 9-volt battery and refrigerator. The laptop goes to an ICT bin after data erasure; the power bank follows the rechargeable-battery preparation rule; the 9-volt terminals are taped; the refrigerator is booked for retailer take-back or an appropriate bulky route.

Unsafe disposal shortcuts

- Sort items by type and size
- Check reuse or repair first
- Erase device data
- Remove loose cards and accessories
- Tape relevant battery terminals
- Confirm the live collection point
- Never leave items beside a full bin

Avoid these unsafe shortcuts

- Using the blue recycling bin
- Assuming every e-bin accepts every item
- Leaving bulky items outside bins
- Skipping data erasure
- Handling a leaking battery without containment

E-waste answers

Can power banks go in blue bins?

No. NEA treats them as e-waste.

What if an appliance is too large?

Use retailer take-back, a drive, doorstep collection or an applicable bulky route.

Should rechargeable battery terminals be taped?

Yes, to reduce short-circuit and fire risk.

Four items can require four different routes

A laptop belongs in an ICT-accepting collection route only after the household backs up needed files, signs out of accounts and performs the appropriate reset. A power bank or rechargeable battery needs the matching battery category and terminal preparation. A long fluorescent tube may not fit a small bin. A refrigerator requires a bulky collection, retailer take-back or doorstep arrangement.

Check the icon and opening of the selected point on the live map immediately before travelling. A pin labelled for e-waste does not mean every product is accepted, and an item left beside a closed or incompatible bin has not been responsibly recycled. For a retailer collection, confirm the delivery or take-back appointment and any access conditions.

Damaged or leaking batteries need extra care. Keep them away from metal objects and follow NEA's stated containment or collection instructions rather than forcing them through a slot. For data-bearing devices, the public-facing steps—backup, account sign-out and reset—remain a household task even though licensed recyclers also have data-security duties.

Keep a short disposal record for valuable or data-bearing equipment: device type, serial number if available, reset date and collection point or receipt. This is not required for every household cable, but it helps confirm that a laptop or phone was handed to the intended programme and was not simply left in a common area. Remove labels that expose names or addresses before handover.

For a multi-item clear-out, sort on the floor before travelling: ICT equipment, lamps, batteries, large appliances and ordinary non-e-waste. Photograph any unusual model label and check it against the live accepted-item list. Sorting at home is safer than carrying a mixed box to a narrow bin and deciding under pressure where a damaged battery or oversized device should go.

Retailer take-back can depend on what is being delivered and the regulated product category. Ask during purchase, keep the delivery confirmation and make space for a safe handover. Do not leave a refrigerator, television or other bulky item in a corridor while waiting. If retailer take-back does not fit, use the appointed operator's current drive or doorstep options and confirm any preparation instructions.

Small items also need sorting. A loose cable, lamp, power bank and alkaline battery may not share one opening even when the collection station has several compartments. Read the labels at the point, never force an item through a slot and take it home if the correct route is unavailable. Responsible disposal includes the decision not to create an obstruction or fire risk beside the bin.

Before donating a working device, ask whether reuse is preferable to recycling and whether the recipient can safely use it. Remove accounts and personal data in either case. A donation route should be legitimate and transparent about accepted equipment; passing on an unsafe, locked or unsupported device is not automatically a better environmental outcome than sending it to the regulated recycling stream.

Related reading: Continue the decision with [How to read appliance energy labels](#), or move to [When OneService is the right municipal reporting route](#) if that issue comes first.

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