# Automotive

## Auto Batteries (lead-acid)

Discarding or improperly disposing of a lead-acid battery is illegal in Texas. Texas law requires businesses that sell lead-acid batteries to accept your old one when you purchase a new battery. Ask your local auto parts store or auto service shop if they will accept extra batteries for recycling.

## Used Oil and Used Oil Filters (includes transmission fluids, brake fluids, power steering fluids, and greases)

Texas law prohibits dumping used oil on land or into storm drains or waterways. It is also illegal to use as a dust suppressant. Some communities have collection centers for used oil and properly drained oil filters. Also, some auto service centers (listed in the yellow pages under "Oil Change & Lube" or "Auto Repair & Service") accept used oil in quantities of less than 5 gallons and sometimes used filters from the public. Businesses should check under "Oil—Used & Waste" for used oil–collection services.

## Antifreeze

Some auto service centers (listed in the yellow pages under "Oil Change & Lube" or "Auto Repair & Service") will accept used antifreeze for recycling. Businesses should check under "Oil—Used & Waste" for antifreeze–collection services.

## Tires

When you purchase new tires, ask if the tire retailer will take your old tires. Most tire dealers or auto shops will accept tires for a fee. A few municipalities will accept a limited number of scrap tires from citizens at no charge.

# Agricultural

## Plastic Pesticide Containers (Empty)

For information on recycling empty plastic pesticide containers, visit <usagrecycling.com>.

# Other

## Other Options

1. Contact the department of solid waste, sanitation, or public works serving your area for recycling contacts.
2. Check the yellow pages under recycling, scrap, waste, or an individual material or product.
3. Contact waste haulers or landfills about recycling options.

## Other TCEQ Publications

*The Used Oil Recycling Handbook: Guidance for Used Oil Handlers* (RG-325) <www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/rg/rg-325.html>
*Be Water Wise at Home* (GI-370)
*When Less = More: Energy Conservation Tips* (GI-388)
*Plug Into Electronics Recycling* (GI-423)

For other ways to Take Care of Texas, visit <TakeCareOfTexas.org>.

Take Care of Texas™ TakeCareOfTexas.org

How is our customer service?
www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/customersurvey

**Texas Commission on Environmental Quality**
Environmental Assistance Division

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# What Do I Do With It Now?

## A Quick Guide to Recycling Resources

Take Care of Texas™
TakeCareOfTexas.org

# Household

## Appliances and Other Scrap Metal

Recycle scrap metal by contacting local scrap dealers or your waste hauler; check your local yellow pages under "Scrap Metals" or "Recycling Centers." Some dealers may pay you for your materials. Some may require that refrigerant (commonly known as Freon) be removed by a certified technician before acceptance.

## Paper, Cardboard, Bottles, Cans

Contact your local government, waste hauler, or landfill to find recycling centers, or check the yellow pages for "Recycling Centers" or "Waste Paper."

## Brush, Leaves, and Lawn Clippings

Contact your local government, waste hauler, or landfill about mulching and composting options for yard trimmings. Practice mulching or start a compost pile at home: to learn how, order a free copy of *Mulching and Composting, A Take Care of Texas Guide* (GI-036), or download a copy at <takecareoftexas.org/news-publications/publications>. Your county extension agent (<agrilifeextension.tamu.edu>) may also be able to assist you.

## Clothing, Toys, Household Goods, etc.

Donate gently used items. Check with local charities and organizations to find a donation center.

## Electronics (computers, printers, televisions, cell phones, etc.)

Texas law requires computer and television manufacturers to offer opportunities for consumers to recycle these electronics. You can find your computer brand's program through <TexasRecyclesComputers.org> and learn about recycling your television through <TexasRecyclesTVs.org>. Your local government, retailers (like Best Buy or Staples), waste hauler, or landfill may also offer electronics recycling options. Some charities (like Goodwill) may accept electronic equipment that can be repaired or salvaged. Additionally, you can search <greenergadgets.org> for a list of electronics recycling locations in your area. For options for recycling cell phones, visit <call2recycle.org> to locate a drop-off location or your local phone company, many of which accept old cell phones for reuse or recycling.

## Household Hazardous Waste (some paints, cleaners, pesticides, etc.)

Opportunities for periodic or regular acceptance of HHW vary by community. Visit the TCEQ HHW Contacts page <www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/hhw-contacts> to find if your city or county has ongoing or upcoming collection opportunities. If no resources are available in your area, with a few exceptions, most HHW can be legally disposed of with your regular trash.

## Pharmaceuticals and Sharps

You can safely throw away most medicines in your household trash after making the drugs unappealing to others. For example, you can crush the medication and mix it with cat litter or spent coffee grounds. Also, contact your solid waste department to inquire about take-back programs or single-day collection events. To learn about proper disposal of used syringes, read our *Disposing of Syringes from Households: Do's and Don'ts* (GI-418) <www.tceq.texas.gov/publications/gi/gi-418.html>.

## Rechargeable Batteries

Rechargeable batteries commonly found in cordless power tools, cellular and cordless phones, laptop computers, camcorders, digital cameras, and remote-control toys should not be thrown in the trash. A number of companies will accept your old rechargeable batteries. Visit <call2recycle.org> to locate the closest battery drop-off location. For more information on battery recycling, visit the U.S. EPA's Web page at <epa.gov/wastes/conserve/materials/battery.htm>.

## Toner and Ink Cartridges

Many manufacturers and office supply stores offer free recycling of inkjet and toner cartridges. You can also buy remanufactured or refillable cartridges.