



Recycle San Diego
your easy e-waste solutionSM

The E-WASTE Epidemic

On March 21, 2001, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) affirmed that cathode ray tubes (CRTs) -- the glass "picture tubes" in computer monitors, TVs, and other video display devices -- contain hazardous levels of lead. Appropriately, their disposal in solid-waste landfills has been banned.

Lead is ranked as the most hazardous substance on the EPA's Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxins list.

40% of the lead in U.S. landfills comes from discarded electrical and electronic products, the majority of which are from TV CRTs.

(Source: Study done for the EPA, reported in Waste in the Wireless World, 2002)

The lead in CRTs and the lead solder in printed circuit boards have been found to leach into landfills (using the EPA's Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure test). Lead can migrate to both groundwater and soil when landfilled.

(Sources: Florida Center for Solid and Hazardous Waste Management, Characterization of Lead Leachability from Cathode Ray Tubes Using the Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure, December 1999; Environment Australia, Hazard Status of Waste Electrical and Electronic Assemblies or Scrap, October 1999)

Harmful health effects of lead include decreased growth, hyperactivity, impaired hearing, and brain damage. Lead is stored primarily in the bones, but is particularly toxic to the reproductive and nervous systems, the blood, and the kidneys. Children's brains and nervous systems are more sensitive to the damaging effects of lead.

(Source: U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry)



It's Easy Being Green!