

# Householders FAQs

Q. As a householder, who can take back my waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE)?

Consumers have two options when disposing WEEE:

- Retailers will take back electrical goods on a one for one, similar for similar basis e.g. an old TV for a new TV within 15 days of purchase of new item at the store or within 30 days if delivered. The old item may have been bought anywhere.
- Civic Amenity and Recycling Centres may take back household electrical goods free of charge.

Q. What notice, if any do I have to give before dropping off WEEE at a Civic Amenity/ Recycling centre?

Householders can dispose of WEEE during the opening hours of the Civic Amenity/ Recycling centres (Excluding the last hour of business).

Q. What can I do if the shop refuses to take back my WEEE?

If you are bringing back WEEE that is a similar type or fulfilling the same function as the new item that is being purchased the retailer must take back the WEEE. If the shop refuses to do this or charges you, contact Wicklow County Council on 0404 20100.

Q. Can retailers charge for taking back WEEE on delivery of a new product?

No. One for one take back is free regardless of whether this happens at the retailer's premises or on the delivery of a new product. However, the retailers right to charge for the delivery of the new item of electrical & electronic equipment is not affected

Q. Can retailers offer price reductions or discounts to avoid their take back obligations?

No. Article 14(6) of the WEEE regulations prohibits retailers from offering price reductions or discounts in order to avoid their take back responsibilities.

The retailer has to give at least 24 hours notice of delivery. The waste equipment (WEEE) must be available for immediate collection and disconnected from any electrical, gas or water supply. If less than 24 hours notice was given the retailer must arrange and collect the WEEE within 15 days of the date of delivery.

If the waste equipment (WEEE) is not available for immediate return the retailer is not obliged to collect it unless you were given less than 24 hours notice of delivery. The purchaser can deliver the take back WEEE to the retailer's premises within 30 days of the date of delivery.

Q. Are shops that only sell specific types of EEE e.g. Hairdressers obligated to take back my WEEE?

Yes, the legislation applies to all retailers, irrespective of size, selling electrical or electronic equipment. All retailers must take back WEEE on a one for one basis i.e. similar for similar.

Q. Can retailers make alternative arrangements to fulfil their one for one take back obligations?

Yes, once the arrangements have prior agreement with Wicklow County Council and the alternative is not more difficult for the purchaser and is free of charge. The alternative arrangements must be advertised by yellow signage at the entrance to the premises stating the alternative.

Q. What if I purchase EEE by means of distance communications e.g. internet, mail orders etc?

The retailer has to give at least 24 hours notice of delivery and the WEEE must be available for immediate collection and disconnected from any electrical, gas or water supply - in the same way as for goods bought in a store. The purchaser can deliver the WEEE to any or every place of business in the State from which the EEE is distributed and/or an address in the State that is occupied by an employee or agent, within 30 days of the date of delivery.