

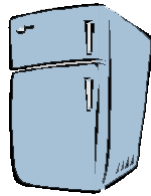
## APPLIANCE RECYCLING GUIDE

Finding someone willing to haul away that old refrigerator or freezer can be one of the most difficult tasks ever encountered. Recycling appliances or “white goods” is often difficult due to the size of the appliance or because of Freon, a fluorocarbon, contained in some appliances.

Appliances can generally be divided into two categories

### **Freon-Containing**

Refrigerators  
Freezers  
Dehumidifiers  
Air Conditioners



### **No Freon**

Stoves and Ranges  
Washers & Dryers  
Dishwashers  
Water heaters  
Microwaves

Before Freon-containing appliances can be recycled, the Freon must be removed. Freon is a regulated chemical that can destroy the ozone layer if released into the atmosphere. Removal must be performed by a certified technician to ensure that all Freon is captured for recycling. After the Freon has been removed an appliance can be processed in a manner typical to all other appliances.

Appliances are typically recycled using a process that shreds the entire product into small pieces. The small pieces then pass under a magnet that pulls out all steel parts. Left over pieces (fluff) may then be passed over an eddy current separator to remove other types of metal. The remaining fluff, composed of mostly plastic and glass, is sent to the landfill.

## WHO CAN YOU CALL TO RECYCLE YOUR OLD APPLIANCE?

### **Appliance Stores or Repairs**

The easiest way to recycle an old appliance is to have it taken away when the new appliance is delivered. Many Appliance retailers will offer to recycle your old appliances, but they may charge a fee for this service. When making a purchase be sure to ask about the store’s recycling program.

### **Local Municipality**

Some communities provide appliance collection services in addition to garbage collection. Contact your local public works department and ask about “Bulky Collections.” You may need to purchase stickers or pay for collection.

### **Scrap Yards**

Scrap yards and recycling centers often accept appliances for recycling. For most appliances there is no fee, but most recyclers will charge for appliances that contain Freon. The charge can range from \$5 to \$40 per appliance. Look under scrap yards or recycling in the yellow pages.

For further information contact:

**Green Bay**  
University of Wisconsin  
2420 Nicolet Drive, MAC212  
Green Bay WI 54311  
920.465.2278 tel  
920.465.2376 fax

**Madison**  
UW Extension  
610 Langdon Street, Room 528  
Madison WI 53703  
608.262.0385 tel  
608.262.6250 fax

**Milwaukee**  
UWM UW-Extension  
161 West Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 6000  
Milwaukee WI 53202  
414.227.3160 tel  
414.227.3165 fax

**Stevens Point**  
University of Wisconsin  
College of Natural Resources  
Stevens Point WI 54481  
715.346.2793 tel  
715.346.3624 fax