



GreenTip
How Do You Measure Up?

What Exactly Are White Goods and Why Do We Care?

Once upon a time, household appliances like refrigerators and washers were the latest consumer gadgets. Back then, they all came in a shiny, white enamel finish – hence, the name “**white goods**.” Did you know that, in North Carolina, it’s illegal to dispose of your **white goods** as trash? It’s true! In 1993, the state legislature passed a measure that banned large appliances from landfills. So what’s the problem with **white goods**, and how can you dispose of them responsibly?



The Problem

The biggest concern with **white goods** relates to those that contain chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) refrigerants, such as refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners. CFC’s pose a danger to people and to the environment if they are not captured and properly **recycled** or destroyed. CFC’s are gases that break down in the atmosphere and release chlorine atoms which deplete the ozone layer. In addition, these gases can also be harmful to humans and animals if inhaled.

Another problem with disposing of **white goods** as trash is the waste of the high quality steel most are made from. By properly **recycling white goods**, we eliminate the environmental and health hazards posed by the CFC’s they may contain at the same time we **reclaim** the valuable metals that can be reintroduced into the manufacturing stream.

The Solution

In North Carolina, consumers and businesses pay a point-of-purchase disposal tax when they buy new appliances. The funds collected help pay for the **recycling** of these items as well as the disposal of CFC’s in a safe, **environmentally friendly** manner. The state program is set up to allow residents and businesses to dispose of used appliances through their local county **white goods** program. How do you, as a consumer, take advantage of this built-in **recycling** program?

Be Part of The Solution

Responsible white goods **recycling** and **disposal** are necessary to keep our community and our environment safe and healthy. Do your part by supporting the **North Carolina White Goods Disposal Program**. Retailers often offer free disposal of your old appliances when you purchase new ones. Many of the cities and towns in Guilford County offer residents curbside collection of **white goods**, as do many of the private companies that provide trash collection to residents in the unincorporated areas of the County. Check with your service provider for more information – in some cases, there is a charge for collection service.



If you have appliances you need to dispose of, you may drop them off, **free of charge**, at the **Guilford County Scrap Tire and White Goods Collection Facility**, located at 2138 Bishop Road, Greensboro. Attendants are on duty to unload appliances safely. Contact the facility at **294-9431** for hours of operation, directions and additional information. If you see someone dumping white goods or if you find a white goods dump site, click [here](#) to report it.