

Millions of tons of universal waste (discarded electronic devices, gadgets, light bulbs, and appliances) end up in domestic and international landfills every year. USC continually strives to divert all of its universal waste from overstressed landfills through careful management and its conscious efforts to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

In this spirit, EH&S has recently broadened the Universal Waste category to capture **Paints and Art Supplies** and **Photographic Negatives** generated by USC departments. Notable examples of USC's expanded universal waste list are depicted below:

- Mercury switches, thermostats, thermometers
- Batteries (AA, AAA, C, D, Button)
- Fluorescent light tubes and bulbs
- High intensity lamps
- Cathode Ray Tubes (CRT)
- Non-empty aerosol cans
- Paints, thinners
- Wood stains, lacquer
- Nitrocellulose film

STEPS TO MINIMIZE UNIVERSAL WASTE

Reduce

- Resist purchase of the latest electronic devices.
- Upgrade functional computers and electronic devices wherever possible.
- Choose durable, long-lasting products and avoid the disposable, non-recyclable ones.

Reuse

- Don't simply dispose of old electronics. Printers, monitors, or other equipment that is still functional and not damaged may be offered to [USC Surplus Sales](#) for resale.

Recycle

- Request a universal waste pick-up online: <http://tiny.cc/hazWaste-PU>.
- Contact [USC Surplus Sales](#) to schedule a pick up of your reusable equipment.

WHAT I NEED TO KNOW...

- Universal wastes may NOT be disposed of in regular/household trash!
- ALWAYS reuse/recycle universal waste unless damaged or broken. NOTE: According to [Global E-waste Monitor](#), only 22.3% of universal waste was properly collected and recycled in 2022.
- Request a [universal waste pick-up online](#).
- **Questions:** Contact hazmat@usc.edu or (323) 442-2200 for information on proper waste management and disposal.



REFERENCES

[Electronic Recyclers International eWaste Search](#)
[California Code of Regulations, Title 22](#)

