

Skagit Valley Herald
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CALLIE MARTIN
“Recycle Your Old Appliances”

As Americans, we remember a promise: Hard work pays off. We can have a better, richer and happier life no matter who we are or where we came from if we put the pedal to the metal. This national dream may have helped create a land of plenty, but it may also be to blame for overinflating consumer expectations in regards to natural resources. Until the economy crashed, we increasingly sought solace through material upgrades. Moreover, this usually happened in the form of household appliances like televisions, refrigerators, washers and dryers.

This makes sense when on average most families in the United States own half a dozen major appliances. The downfall of the upgrade is that more often than less, the appliances are working just fine. Many are thrown away simply because the owner wishes to upgrade to something bigger, better, or more convenient. Of course, upgrades aren't all bad if the choice to buy new is made with energy efficiency in mind. For example, a 20-year-old refrigerator can use up to 40% more energy than one purchased with an Energy Star rating in stores today.

Weather it is to increase energy savings or to move up a notch, when you decide to change out your appliances, remember that in North America alone nearly 16 million appliances go to the landfill each year. In addition, most major home appliances typically consist of 75% steel, not to mention aluminum and plastic. All of which can be reprocessed to manufacture new products.

One more reason to seek out recycling for your home appliances is that refrigerators, air conditioners, freezers and dehumidifiers all operate using refrigerants. Refrigerants are considered to be hazardous waste, because they contain the ozone depleting substances (ODS) known as chlorofluorocarbons (CFC's), or a chemical compound more commonly known as Freon. Removing Freon is time consuming, and it takes a special technician with an ODP (ozone depletion prevention) license to accomplish.

“A repair in time saves nine” is a great philosophy to follow when it comes to appliances. If the appliance you have is newer, but having mechanical issues, consider hiring a technician to fix it. The repair could be simple and will save you the larger cost of having to replace the entire item.

When purchases new, most appliances are meant to last a minimum of 10 to 15 years before falling victim to mechanical problems, but like most things of value, loving maintenance is a key. Most maintenance on our handy household machines is easy and can be taken care of every three months in less than 30 minutes. For a step-by-step guide on how to keep your refrigerator, freezer and other appliances running and looking their best visit www.greenyour.com/home/appliances/refrigerator/tips/maintain-your-refrigerator

Appliances are some of the most expensive household items for families to buy. If your old appliance still works well, consider giving it away to a friend, neighbor, or local charity. Alternatively, post a want ad on one of several popular reuse websites.

Once you receive a positive inquiry, leave the appliance running in order to show the interested party that indeed, the machine runs smoothly.

If your old appliance has seen better days, the easiest way to recycle it in Skagit County is to contact one of several used appliance stores near you. Most recycling facilities request that your appliance be dropped-off, and for appliances that contain Freon there are usually charges of up to \$50.00. If that is the case, you can rest easy knowing you did the right thing in terms of environmental health and safety.

Locations for Appliance Recycling in Skagit County

All facilities accept appliances with and without CFC's. Charges always apply to those appliances with CFC's, and may or may not apply to those without. Other appliances accepted at ALL facilities include dishwashers, water heaters and microwaves. To view a complete list of what Skagit facilities accept visit Washington State Department of Ecology's 1-800-RECYCLE Hotline Database webpage

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/recycle/search.aspx>

Larry's Auto and Truck Parts

199 Pease Road

Burlington WA 98233

360-757-7444

Open Tuesday through Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Skagit River Steel and Recycling

1265 South Anacortes Street

Burlington WA 98233

360-757-6096

Open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Skagit County Recycling and Transfer Station

14104 Ovenell Road

Mount Vernon WA 98273

360-424-3873

Open every day from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Rita Street Appliance Recycling

211 West Woodworth Street

Sedro Woolley WA 98284

360-855-2030

Open Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

City Recycling Facility

315 Sterling Street

Sedro Woolley WA 98284

360-855-1884

Open Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Clear Lake Compactor Site
23159 Howey Road
Clear Lake WA
360-856-5083

Open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.

Sauk Transfer Station
50796 State Route 20
Concrete WA

Open Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Locations for Appliance Repair Store and Sales of Used Appliance in Skagit County

SALES

Appliance Recycling Connection
729 W Division St
Mount Vernon WA 98273
360-336-5557

9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday

REPAIR

Anderson Appliance Service Inc
2520 Cedardale Rd
Mount Vernon WA 98274
360-336-6515

Service Hours are Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.