

Tips For Proper Disposal Of Old Technology Items

High-tech gifts are hot items on many wish lists this holiday season. From kids to grandparents, and everyone in between, the latest cell phones, digital cameras and MP3 players are among the favorites to give and receive.

But once you have the latest new tech toys, what happens to the old gear?

Before you toss last year's cell phone or old digital camera away in a drawer to make room for new gadgets, do something positive for the environment and answer the Call2Recycle(R) by properly disposing of used rechargeable batteries!

Most of the portable electronic devices purchased during the holidays - such as cell phones, PDAs, Blackberrys, digital cameras, laptop computers and mp3 players - are powered by rechargeable batteries.

Though rechargeable batteries are a long-lasting and reusable power source, they will eventually begin to lose their charge after approximately 1,000 charges.

When replacing a device with rechargeable batteries, instead of tossing the old ones in the trash or hoarding an electronics stash in a storage closet or junk drawer, recycle them at participating Call2Recycle retailers across the country.

The largest nationwide rechargeable battery and cell phone recycling program, Call2Recycle has collection locations at your favorite major national retailers like Best Buy, Circuit City, The Home Depot, Lowe's, RadioShack and Target. Operated by the Recharge-

able Battery Recycling Corporation (RBRC), a nonprofit, public service organization dedicated to recycling used rechargeable batteries, the Call2Recycle program is a simple and free way for consumers to upgrade their technology in an environmentally responsible way this holiday season.

Consumers can also use their shopping trips to make the holidays

a little "greener," just by bringing their used rechargeable batteries and old cell phones with them to participating area retailers. Look for the Call2Recycle collection boxes conveniently located in stores and recycle your way to a "greener" holiday spirit.

Along with your gift, share these simple tips with friends and family to help them maximize the life of

their new gadgets:

- * Follow the charging guidelines provided by the manufacturer, as each individual product has a specific initial battery charging time.

- * Never return a fully charged battery to the charger for an extra boost, as this will only shorten the life of the battery.

- * Let a discharged battery cool to room temperature before re-

charging.

- * Recharge batteries only when they are near to fully discharged.

Keep the environment in mind this gift-giving season, and remember to recycle your used rechargeable batteries. Visit www.call2recycle.org or call toll-free 877-2-RECYCLE to find drop-off locations near you.

Stocking Stuffer Ideas For The Kids

'Tis the season for presents under the tree and treats tucked into stockings hanging on the mantle. Who benefits more from the holiday season than youngsters? After all, it seems the winter months were just tailor made for them, with snow days, whimsical decorations, and lots and lots of gifts!

Today's kids seemingly have it all, which can make holiday shopping a bit of a challenge for those looking for something special to slip into a stocking.

Thinking outside of the box is one way to come up with some clever gift ideas, especially ones that serve dual purposes. Think about these stocking-stuffers that are both fun and functional.

Treat of a toothbrush - Kids tend to tune out when Mom or Dad tells them to take care of a chore or handle daily grooming.

But with recognizable and enjoyable music as their partner, they'll want to tune into something that won't be a chore at all. Snow White "whistled while she worked" and

now kids can hum along to "Old MacDonald" while keeping their teeth pearly white.

The colorful and quirky FireFly(R) Boppin' Barnyard Musical Timer Toothbrush from Dr. Fresh(R) plays that familiar childhood tune for the length of one minute - the amount of time dentists say each row of teeth should be brushed for optimal health.

"Young children love music and animals, so we've combined them in a toothbrush that is sure to banish boredom, and to encourage good oral care from an early age," says Dr. Fresh. Soft, yet resilient, rounded bristles guard delicate young gums from irritation and microscopic cuts, and the toothbrush is ergonomically designed for a

child's small hand. Learn more by visiting www.drfresh.com.

Colorful toy bins - Chances are that the children you know will receive dozens of new toys this holiday season.

And there's an even greater chance that they're joining an already mile-high pile of toys collected from birthday parties and doting grandparents. A toy sorter, toy chest, colorful bins, or stackable units can be the ideal complement to all of these toys.

While it actually won't fit in a stocking, it's still useful nonetheless. Kids will learn the lesson of keeping their toys in top-notch condition by putting them away neatly and in an organized manner. Parents will bestow on you words

of great praise for helping to tidy up the house.

Spectacular stationery and more - A trip to a stationery or office supply store can open doors to many wonderful stocking stuffer ideas.

Additionally, these finds can be put to good use by children for homework and in school. Stock up on colorful pens, pencils, sticky note pads, card stock and coordinating envelopes (for sending secret notes to friends), and stickers. These stores often also sell arts and crafts supplies that will fit right in with the theme. Kids can spend time expressing their creativity in between taking breaks from playing with their new holiday toys.



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