



# Recycling Your Computer

## Which Computer Companies Will Take Back Your Old Computer?

### Computer TakeBack Campaign

February 5, 2007      [www.computertakeback.com](http://www.computertakeback.com)

Before you buy that new computer, think about what you plan to do with your old one. If it still works and you think someone else can use it, then you might want to donate it to a reputable reuse organization. (Make sure the organization is accepting donations for local reuse – and not sending them overseas.)

But if that's not an option for you, some of the computer manufacturers offer computer recycling programs that you can use, often for free. This report tells you who offers what services, how to use them, and how to get free recycling.

Note: The information in this report is current as of February 5, 2007. Companies do change their takeback programs from time to time, so be sure to verify details on the company websites (links are included inside) or check for updated versions of this report on our website at: [www.computertakeback.com](http://www.computertakeback.com).

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# DELL'S COMPUTER TAKEBACK PROGRAM

## Recycling your old Dell for free

### **Dell now takes back all Dell brand products for FREE**

Dell will now take back any Dell product for free, even if you aren't buying a new one. You have to send it back to them, but they pay for shipping. See details below under "How to send your stuff back."

## Recycling for free when you are buying a new Dell

### **Dell takes back any company's equipment for free when you buy a new Dell computer**

You must buy your new computer from the home/home office part of their website. (This offer doesn't apply to business sales.)

If you are ordering your computer on-line, you can request a free recycling kit by selecting the option called *"Recycle my old system with Dell (Free)."* If you order on the phone, ask your sales rep to include the recycling kit with your order. Your new PC will arrive with a Dell recycling envelope containing 2 prepaid air bills and instructions on how to pack and ship your old equipment.

## Recycling non-Dell equipment any time

### **Dell will take back any company's old computers for \$10, even if you aren't buying a new one.**

You simply order a Dell recycling kit on-line for \$10 per box (up to 50 lbs), which includes the shipping costs. **This is currently the MOST AFFORDABLE OPTION if you aren't eligible for any free recycling.**

## How to send your stuff back to Dell

You will need to provide your own box and packing materials. You order a Dell recycling kit on Dell's website (or select it as part of your purchase). Dell will send you prepaid air bills and instructions for how to pack your items, and for scheduling the shipper to pick your items up at your house. To order free takeback of Dell products, you will be asked to enter the weight and an identifying code from each Dell product you want to recycle – a service tag, serial number, PPID, or Express Service Code. (Dell labels its products with these codes.)

## What does Dell take back?

Dell will take back all Dell-branded products. For customers returning other companies' products, Dell takes back computers, keyboards, mice, monitors, printers.

## Who can use Dell's recycling service?

Free takeback of Dell products is available to ANY Dell product owner (individuals, businesses, organizations, agencies, etc.). To get "free takeback with purchase" recycling, when you can send back another company's product, you must be buying from Dell's Home/Home Office website (not their business sites). Some "consumers" buy from Dell's small business website, but these are not eligible for the free takeback with purchase program.

## What about business customers?

Businesses can also use Dell's asset recovery system to sell old equipment. Details are on their [asset recovery website](#).

## Link for more details

**Dell Recycling Website. Go to [www.dell4me.com/recycling](http://www.dell4me.com/recycling)**

# HP's COMPUTER TAKEBACK PROGRAM

## How to get FREE recycling from HP

**HP doesn't offer free takeback on their products unless you are buying new ones.**

HP charges for their recycling service, but if you are buying a new HP product, you can usually apply an E-Coupon that you get from recycling to cover most or all of this recycling cost.

## How to use HP's recycling system

HP will take back a big range of equipment. (It doesn't have to be HP equipment.) HP has an on-line system to "order" recycling services. You fill out the checklist of equipment you want to recycle, and they will charge you according to the items on your checklist. (To recycle a desktop computer plus a monitor costs \$46, as of June 2006.)

<https://warp1.external.hp.com/recycle/>

HP will send you a recycling kit, including prepaid shipping air bills and packing instructions. You will need to provide your own box and packing materials. HP's shippers pick up your items from you. About a week later, HP will send you an e-coupon that you can apply to purchases made on HP's Home/Home Office sales website. Currently, the coupon value for recycling a monitor and computer (for which you paid \$46) is \$50. So it covers the cost of recycling.

## Trade in your old equipment toward new HP purchase

Sometimes you can trade in your old equipment (HP and other manufacturers') and apply a trade-in allowance towards new purchases from HP. HP offers trade-in allowances on a wide range of products: desktop computer, notebook, PC server, monitor, printer, plotter, copier, digital camera, PDA, projector, networking, and data-storage products. You can get an immediate on-line quote on your equipment's trade-in value at their user-friendly trade-in site:

[http://www.hp.com/united-tates/tradein/home\\_flash.html](http://www.hp.com/united-tates/tradein/home_flash.html)

## What does HP take back?

Printers, scanners, fax machines, personal computers, desktop servers, monitors, handheld devices, etc. – along with related external components such as cables, mice, keyboards.

## Who can use HP's recycling services?

Anyone can use it. But e-coupons for recycling credit towards purchases are available to individual consumers only, buying from the home/home office sales website.

## What about business customers?

Businesses can use HP's asset recovery system to sell old equipment to offset recycling costs. Details are on their [asset recovery site](#).

## Read the small print (Details you need to know)

HP's system makes you send back your stuff first, then you get the coupon towards purchasing new equipment. If you want to send back a computer, you can't really send your current computer back before you get your new one (since you will need to transfer your data). So this system works best either to recycle your older equipment or for a discount (with the coupon) towards your next purchase. It won't work as a rebate on your recent purchase.

## Link for more details

**HP's Recycling Website:** <https://warp1.external.hp.com/recycle/>

# APPLE'S COMPUTER TAKEBACK PROGRAM

## How to get FREE recycling from Apple

Apple offers free takeback and recycling to consumers who buy a new or "Apple Certified refurbished" computer or monitor from Apple stores, Apple phone sales or Apple's website. (This doesn't work for purchases from resellers, or in Hawaii or Alaska.)

When you purchase your Apple on-line, you can request recycling on the verification of the order page. If you buy at an Apple store or on the phone, tell the sales person you want to do this.

Apple will send you an email with instructions for how to pack and ship your old equipment to Apple's recycling center. Keep this email - you will need it for the free shipping codes, which expire in 30 days.

## How to use Apple's recycling system without a new purchase

If you are not buying a new Apple computer, you can still use Apple's recycling program. You can send back any company's products, but it costs \$30 per box (up to 60 lbs). Order recycling services (and a prepaid UPS shipping label) on-line at: <http://www.recycleapc.com/apple/index.asp>

## Trade in Apple Equipment

Currently, trade-in is offered only to educational institutions. <http://www.apple.com/education/shop/recycle/index.html>

## How to send your stuff back to Apple

You will need to provide your own box and packing materials. You must place CPUs and monitors into two separate boxes. Weight limit per package is less than 70 lbs. Take the boxed equipment plus the email you got from Apple to FEDEX. The email has the codes you will need for free shipping. These codes are only GOOD FOR 30 DAYS, then they expire.

## What does Apple take back?

Computers, monitors, cables, mice, keyboards, computer speakers, printers, scanners, floppy drives, optical media, external hard drives.

## Who can use Apple's takeback services?

Individuals and small business. Not available in Hawaii or Alaska.

## What about business customers?

For larger business and institutions, Apple offers other volume recycling options. Contact [irecycle@apple.com](mailto:irecycle@apple.com).

## Read the small print (Details you need to know)

- Free shipping only works for 30 days after you get your email from Apple.
- There are many on-line and in-store sales outlets called Authorized Resellers, but purchases through these resellers do NOT qualify for free recycling. Refurbished sales must be "Apple Certified Refurbished" to qualify.
- They don't take back your stuff at the Apple retail stores.
- You MUST select the free recycling option at the time you are buying your system. You can't add it later.

## Link for more details

<http://www.apple.com/environment/recycling/program/index.html>

# LENOVO's and IBM's COMPUTER TAKEBACK PROGRAM

<b>Who is Lenovo?</b>	In May of 2005, IBM sold off their PC division (including their Thinkpad line) to Lenovo, a Chinese PC manufacturer, and the world's third largest PC vendor. The two companies still maintain some business alliances.
<b>Free Recycling</b>	Lenovo has no option for free recycling for consumers in the US. However, you may be able to use IBM's buy-back program to offset recycling fees: <a href="http://www-03.ibm.com/financing/us/recovery/small/index.html">http://www-03.ibm.com/financing/us/recovery/small/index.html</a>
<b>How to use Lenovo's recycling system</b>	Order a recycling kit <a href="#">online</a> . The cost is \$30 per box. You will receive a prepaid UPS shipping label, packing instructions, and a form authorizing donation (if your item is still useful). Lenovo's recycler may refurbish your equipment and donate it to charity (if you authorize it) and send you a receipt for the tax deduction.
<b>How to send your stuff back to Lenovo</b>	You will need to provide your own box and packing materials. Weight limit per package is 69 lbs. Maximum box size limit is 26x26x26 inches. Take the boxed equipment (including the prepaid shipping label) to any UPS outlet.
<b>What does Lenovo take back?</b>	Any manufacturer's CPU, monitor, printer, and "optional attachments."
<b>Who can use Lenovo's takeback services?</b>	Anyone can use it.
<b>What about business customers?</b>	IBM offers a buyback program for computers which still have value. You can get an online quote for <b>1-250 items</b> at: <a href="http://www-03.ibm.com/financing/us/recovery/small/">http://www-03.ibm.com/financing/us/recovery/small/</a> For <b>larger quantities</b> , IBM has several asset recovery options: <a href="http://www-03.ibm.com/financing/us/recovery/large/index.html">http://www-03.ibm.com/financing/us/recovery/large/index.html</a>
<b>Link for more details</b>	<a href="http://www.pc.ibm.com/ww/lenovo/about/environment/ptb_us.html">http://www.pc.ibm.com/ww/lenovo/about/environment/ptb_us.html</a>

# GATEWAY, TOSHIBA COMPUTER TAKEBACK PROGRAM

<b>How to get FREE recycling from the Dealttime Trade In Program</b>	Some companies use the Dealttime Trade-in program to offer recycling services. While this service (described below) is primarily used to trade in old working electronics for future purchase credit, some companies also offer their customers use of the Dealttime recycling program. You pay a fee to cover the shipping cost only, but you must ship your items back to Dealtree.
<b>Gateway's link for more details</b>	<a href="http://gateway.eztradein.com/gateway/">http://gateway.eztradein.com/gateway/</a>
<b>Toshiba's link for more details</b>	<a href="http://toshiba.eztradein.com/toshiba/">http://toshiba.eztradein.com/toshiba/</a>

# SONY'S NOTEBOOK TRADE-IN PROGRAM

## What does Sony take back?

Sony's will take back some old notebook computers through its notebook trade-in program, giving you credit towards a future Sony purchase.

## How does the trade-in program work?

Sony's website has a trade-in calculator, where you can see if your notebook has any value for a trade-in. (It doesn't have to be a Sony notebook.) You will need to know details about your computer's processor type and processor speed. If the calculator tells you that your computer is eligible for trade-in, then you can either take it into a Sony Style store or a Sony outlet, or mail it in for free, to Sony's partner – Computer Products and Services.

## How to send your stuff back to Sony.

The on-line trade-in calculator has an option to request a free Fedex shipping label to CP&S (Sony's trade-in partner). Once your old notebook is received and evaluated, you will get an email with the coupon toward future Sony purchase. You will need to provide your own box and packing materials and take the box to Fedex.

## Read the small print (Details you need to know)

- If CP&S finds that your notebook doesn't measure up to what you indicated on the website, they can charge you a recycling fee, or charge you for return shipping and handling.
- Our testing of the on-line calculator found very few notebooks were eligible for trade-in. Even when we entered specifications for some lower end notebooks that Sony is CURRENTLY SELLING, the calculator said they were ineligible for trade-in.

## Link for more details

[http://www.sonystyle.com/is-bin/INTERSHOP.enfinity/eCS/Store/en-/USD/SY\\_BrowseCatalog-Start?CategoryName=pr\\_p\\_tradein\\_cpu&INT=sstyle-computers-cpu\\_GreatDeals-pr\\_p\\_tradein\\_cpu](http://www.sonystyle.com/is-bin/INTERSHOP.enfinity/eCS/Store/en-/USD/SY_BrowseCatalog-Start?CategoryName=pr_p_tradein_cpu&INT=sstyle-computers-cpu_GreatDeals-pr_p_tradein_cpu)

# TRADE IN YOUR OLD ELECTRONICS FOR CASH AT DEALTREE

## Trade in your old electronics

Several electronics manufacturers and retailers will allow recent customers to use a trade-in rebate service provided by Dealtree.com to sell their old electronics. You can trade in a whole range of working consumer electronics (see list below). Once they are received and verified by Dealtree, they will send you either a check or gift certificate, depending on the company.

## What You Can Trade In

You can potentially get a trade-in rebate on all these (working) products: Desktops, laptops, servers, camcorders, cell phones, digital cameras, PDAs, iPods, game systems, audio and car receivers, multimedia projectors, flat panel monitors. (No trade-in value for CRT monitors.) Some companies allow only certain trade in items (see below).

## How Much Is Your Stuff Worth?

On each of the companies' trade-in sites, you will find a Trade In Value Calculator. You fill in details about your item (including current condition), and it will tell you what it's worth. This must be verified by Dealtree, once they actually receive your items, however.

## What Companies Participate?

A wide range of manufacturers and retailers participate in the Dealtree trade-in program. Most (except eBay) require that you be a recent customer in

order to use their trade-in program. **See next page for details** on some of the larger companies using the trade in system.

### How You Can Trade In Old Electronics For Cash With Dealtree

If you recently bought items from this company	Eligible Purchases	What kinds of items are eligible for trade-in	What kind of rebate will you receive?	Link for more info
<b>Buy.com</b>	Any buy.com purchases	Full list offered by Dealtree – see “what you can trade in” above	Electronic gift certificate good for purchases at Buy.com	<a href="https://buy.eztradein.com/buy/">https://buy.eztradein.com/buy/</a>
<b>Casio</b>	Casio digital camera	Cameras, Camcorders	Check payable to you (purchaser)	<a href="http://casio.eztradein.com/casio/">http://casio.eztradein.com/casio/</a>
<b>Circuit City</b>	Any product	Full list offered by Dealtree – see “what you can trade in” above	Gift card, good for purchases at Circuit City	<a href="http://cc.eztradein.com/cc/">http://cc.eztradein.com/cc/</a>
<b>eBay</b>	No purchase needed	Full list offered by Dealtree – see “what you can trade in” above	Rebate paid to you via PayPal	<a href="https://ebay.eztradein.com/ebay/">https://ebay.eztradein.com/ebay/</a>
<b>Gateway Computer</b>	Any Gateway or e-Machines product	Full list offered by Dealtree – see “what you can trade in” above	Check payable to you (purchaser)	<a href="http://gateway.eztradein.com/gateway/">http://gateway.eztradein.com/gateway/</a>
	Note: If your old products have no trade-in value, you can send them in for recycling for the cost of shipping. The trade-in calculator will tell you the shipping cost.			
<b>Sony</b>	Camera or Camcorders	Camcorders – any brand	Coupon good for camera/camcorder purchase at Sony Style	<a href="http://sony.eztradein.com/sony/">http://sony.eztradein.com/sony/</a>
<b>Sharp</b>	Any Sharp product	Full list offered by Dealtree – see “what you can trade in” above	Electronic gift certificate good for purchases at TheSharpStore.com	<a href="http://sharp.eztradein.com/sharp/">http://sharp.eztradein.com/sharp/</a>
<b>Toshiba</b>	Any Toshiba notebook or projector	Full list offered by Dealtree – see “what you can trade in” above	Check payable to you (purchaser)	<a href="http://toshiba.eztradein.com/toshiba/howitworks.cfm#">http://toshiba.eztradein.com/toshiba/howitworks.cfm#</a>
	Note: If your old products have no trade-in value, you can send them in for recycling for the cost of shipping. The trade-in calculator will tell you the shipping cost.			

(For a full list of companies using Dealtree, go to <http://www.dealtree.com/services.html>)

Note: HP also offers trade-in allowances on many products, towards new purchases. See description on page 2.

## REMOVING YOUR DATA BEFORE RECYCLING

None of the consumer recycling programs will clean the data off your computer hard drive (except HP's trade in program, for a \$15 fee.) These services are provided under the asset management programs (to businesses and institutions) but what should consumers do before they send back their computers?

There are several products which clean data off hard drives, but opinions vary as to which is the best (and most complete) technology. We don't endorse any brand of software, but here are some options.

### **PC World Magazine Recommendations, Feb 2006 Software Reviews:**

<http://www.pcworld.com/howto/article/0,aid,123786,00.asp>

### **Blancco's File Shredder Software**

<http://www.blancco.com/main.site?action=siteupdate/view&id=23>