



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TAX AND FEE ADMINISTRATION



Electronic Waste Recycling Fee

We designed this publication to provide basic information about California's Electronic Waste Recycling Fee. If you have questions that are not answered in this publication, please contact us (see [page 3](#)).

What is the Electronic Waste Recycling Fee?

The Covered Electronic Waste Recycling (eWaste) Fee is a fee imposed on consumers upon the purchase of certain new or refurbished video display devices that have been identified by the Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) as "covered electronic devices" or "CEDs."

How are the fee revenues used?

eWaste Fee revenues are used to fund the safe, cost-free, and convenient collection and recycling of CEDs, which contain hazardous materials. For more on the recycling of electronic products, see www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Electronics/.

How much is the fee?

For information on fee rates, please visit our *Tax Rates—Special Taxes and Fees* webpage at www.cdtfa.ca.gov/taxes-and-fees/tax-rates-stfd.htm.

The retailer must separately state the eWaste Fee on the receipt or invoice provided to customers at the time of sale.

What CEDs are subject to the fee?

The eWaste Fee applies to new or refurbished* electronic devices that contain video displays measuring more than four inches diagonally and are identified as CEDs by the DTSC.

These devices include:

- Desktop computer monitor liquid crystal display (LCD) and light emitting diode (LED) monitors, or organic light emitting diode (OLED) monitors
- Laptop computers with LCD/LED or OLED screens
- Portable DVD players with LCD/LED or OLED screens
- LCD/LED or OLED containing tablets
- LCD/LED Smart Displays
- "Bare" cathode ray tubes and devices containing cathode ray tubes
- Televisions with:
 - LCD screens (excluding LCD projection televisions)
 - LED or OLED screens

- Plasma screens (excluding plasma projection televisions)
- Cathode ray tubes

The items included in this list may change. All CED determinations are made by DTSC. For more information regarding whether an item is considered a CED subject to the eWaste Fee, contact DTSC's Regulatory Assistance Office at 1-800-728-6942, or visit their website at dtsc.ca.gov/covered-electronic-devices/.



What products are not subject to the fee?

The fee does not apply when a customer purchases a video display device that is any of the following:

- Used but not refurbished.
- Part of a motor vehicle, as defined in [Vehicle Code section 415](#), or a component part of a motor vehicle assembled by or for a vehicle manufacturer or franchised dealer. This includes replacement parts for use in a motor vehicle.
- Contained within, or a part of, a piece of industrial, commercial, or medical equipment, including monitoring or control equipment.
- Contained within a clothes washer, clothes dryer, refrigerator, freezer, oven or range, microwave oven, dishwasher, room air conditioner, dehumidifier, or air purifier.
- OLED smart devices.
- Cell phone, including smartphone with a screen size greater than four inches.
- eReader/eBook reader with eInk (does not include eReaders that are tablets).

*As defined in [Public Resources Code \(PRC\) section 42463](#), subsection (t), "refurbished" means a CED that the manufacturer has tested and returned to a condition that meets factory specifications for the device, has repackaged, and has labeled as refurbished.

Who is required to register and pay the fee?

You must register with us, file as required, and pay the fee if you are a:

- California retailer* that sells or leases CEDs, or
- Purchaser (consumer) who purchases CEDs for personal or business use but does not pay the eWaste Fee at the time of purchase. Such a purchaser must register and pay the fee to us. This includes retailers that become purchasers by removing CEDs from inventory for purposes other than retail sale or resale, or
- Vendor collecting the eWaste Fee from a retailer per [PRC 42464\(d\)\(2\)](#).



We may impose a civil penalty in an amount of up to \$5,000 per sale or lease for not paying the fee to us.

For special conditions that apply if you lease to consumers, see the next column.

What if my business is located outside California?

If you are required to have a California seller's permit or *Certificate of Registration—Use Tax*, you must register for an eWaste account and collect the fee when you sell CEDs to California retail customers. If you are not sure if you need to register and pay sales or use tax, see [publication 77](#), *Out-of-State Sellers: Do You Need to Register with California?*, on our [website](#), or call our Customer Service Center at 1-800-400-7115 (CRS:711).

If you are not required to register for an eWaste account, you may voluntarily register so you can collect the eWaste Fee as a courtesy to your California customers. Payment of the eWaste Fee by you would satisfy your customer's obligation to us. Any time you collect the fee from a California customer, you must provide the customer with an invoice or similar document. The document should show the fee as a separate item and that it has been paid in full. A copy of the document should be retained for your records.

What if I lease CEDs?

If you are a retailer who leases CEDs, generally, you must collect the eWaste Fee on your first lease of a new or refurbished CED; *however*, you may choose to pay the fee to the vendor who sells you the devices. This option is available only if *all four* of the following conditions apply:

- The vendor who sells to you is registered with us to collect and pay the eWaste Fee.
- The vendor holds a valid California seller's permit.
- You pay the fee to the vendor. Your invoice from the vendor shows a separate amount for the fee you paid.
- You provide a written statement on your customer's invoice, contract, or other lease document showing that you have paid the fee for the customer.

When these conditions are met, the vendor—not the retailer or consumer—owes the fee to us and must pay it with the eWaste return. The vendor may retain three percent of the fee as reimbursement for all costs associated with the collection of the fee and must pay the remainder to us.

Retailers that make no sales and only lease CEDs to consumers, and whose transactions meet the conditions listed above, are not required to register and collect or pay the fee.

How do I register?

You can apply for an account, license, or permit at www.cdtfa.ca.gov. Select the *Register* button to get started. If you have questions, please contact our Customer Service Center at 1-800-400-7115 (CRS:711), Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Pacific time), except state holidays.

Is the amount of the fee subject to sales or use tax?

No. Do not include the fee amount in your sales or use tax calculation.

Are any sales exempt from the fee?

The fee does not apply to the following sales:

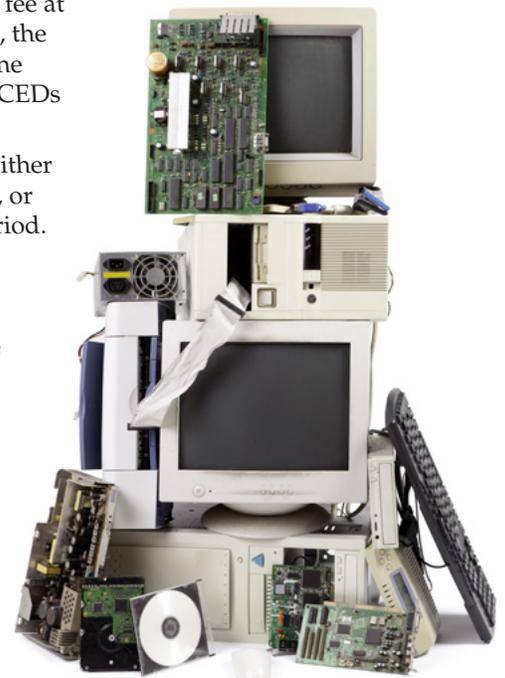
- Sales for resale.
- Sales to Native Americans on Native American reservations.
- Sales of CEDs the retailer ships directly to a location outside California, when the transaction is not subject to California sales or use tax. The fee *will* apply if the buyer takes possession of the CEDs in California.

Sales to the United States government are *not* exempt from the eWaste Fee.

When are my fee payments and returns due?

eWaste Fee returns for retailers are due for the reporting period in which the CEDs were sold, leased, or used for purposes other than retail sale or resale. For consumers who did not pay the fee at the time of purchase, the reporting period is the period in which the CEDs were purchased.

We will assign you either a monthly, quarterly, or annual reporting period. The due date for the return and payment is the last day of the month following the reporting period. If you have an eWaste Fee account, you must file a return even if you did not sell or lease any products subject to the fee during the reporting period.



*Beginning January 1, 2022, a retailer includes a marketplace facilitator selling CEDs through its marketplace. Please see [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 1402 \(Stats. 2021, ch. 421\)](#) and our [Tax Guide for Marketplace Facilitator Act](#) for more information.

To file and pay your eWaste Fee return, log in at www.cdtfa.ca.gov. If you need assistance, please call our Customer Service Center at 1-800-400-7115 (CRS:711), select the *Special Taxes and Fees* option, then select the option for *return assistance* and follow the prompts for *Electronic Waste Fee*. Customer service representatives are available to assist you Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Pacific time), except state holidays.

Retailers may retain three percent of the fee as reimbursement for all costs associated with the collection of the fee and must pay the remainder to us.

If you close or sell your business, you are required to notify us and file your final return the last day of the month following the quarter in which you close or sell your business.

If you file a late fee return or make a late fee payment, you are liable for interest or penalty charges. If you pay your fee liability on time but do not file your return on time, you are still liable for a penalty for filing a late return.

Sales suppression software programs and devices

It is a crime for anyone to knowingly sell, purchase, install, transfer, or possess software programs or devices that are used to hide or remove sales and to falsify records.

Using these devices gives an unfair competitive advantage over business owners who comply with the law and pay their fair share of taxes and fees. Violators could face up to three years in county jail, fines of up to \$10,000, and will be required to pay all illegally withheld taxes, plus penalties, including applicable interest and fees.

What is required from manufacturers?

Manufacturers are required to submit a notification letter and report each year.

Manufacturer's notification letter

On or before April 1 each year, manufacturers are required to send a notice to all retailers that sell CEDs produced by the manufacturer on or before December 31 of the prior year. The notice must identify the electronic devices the manufacturer makes that are CEDs subject to the eWaste Fee.

Manufacturer's report

In addition to the notification letter, a manufacturer is required to file a report with CalRecycle. This report is due on or before July 1 each year.

For more information on the manufacturer's notification letter requirements and the manufacturer's report, please see the CalRecycle [website](#) or access publication *Guidance for Manufacturer Reporting for the Electronic Waste Recycling Act* at www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/Publications/Details/1250.

For More Information

CDTFA Electronic Waste Recycling Fee information

www.cdtfa.ca.gov/taxes-and-fees/electronic-waste-recycling-fee.htm

Electronic Waste Recycling information

www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/Electronics/eRecycle

Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery

www.calrecycle.ca.gov/

Manufacturers' reporting information

www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Electronics/Manufacturer/

Department of Toxic Substances Control

www.dtsc.ca.gov

CDTFA website and contact information

www.cdtfa.ca.gov

Customer Service Center

1-800-400-7115 (CRS:711)

Customer Service representatives are available Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Pacific time), except state holidays.

Electronic Waste Recycling Fee

Write to us at:

Special Taxes and Fees, MIC:88
California Department of
Tax and Fee Administration
PO Box 942879
Sacramento, CA 94279-0088

Email: www.cdtfa.ca.gov/email

Taxpayers' Rights Advocate

1-888-324-2798

www.cdtfa.ca.gov/tra

The Taxpayers' Rights Office helps taxpayers when they are unable to resolve a matter through normal channels, when they want information regarding procedures, or when there are apparent rights violations.



This publication summarizes the law and applicable regulations in effect when the publication was written. However, changes in the law or the regulations may have occurred since that time. If there is a conflict between the text in this publication and the law, decisions will be based on the law and not on this publication.

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