



E – WASTE

ELECTRONIC WASTE OR AS IT IS BETTER KNOWN, E – WASTE, CONSTITUTES 2% TO 5% OF THE US MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE STREAM AND IS RISING EACH YEAR. UNIVERSAL WASTES ARE COMMON HOUSEHOLD OR BUSINESS WASTE ITEMS THAT REQUIRE SPECIAL CARE IN DISPOSAL.

LEAD, MERCURY, CADMIUM, AND POLYBROMINATED FLAME-RETARDANTS ARE ALL PERSISTENT, BIOACCUMULATIVE TOXINS (PBT) THAT CAN CREATE ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH RISKS WHEN COMPUTERS ARE MANUFACTURED, INCINERATED, LANDFILLED, OR MELTED DOWN DURING RECYCLING.

E-WASTES FALL UNDER THE UNIVERSAL WASTE UMBRELLA AND ARE COMMONLY USED ITEMS SUCH AS BATTERIES, MERCURY THERMOMETERS AND FLUORESCENT TUBES THAT ARE GENERATED IN HOMES AND BUSINESS AND CONTAIN HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. A TYPICAL 17-INCH COMPUTER MONITOR CONTAINS APPROXIMATELY 2.2 POUNDS OF LEAD AND A 27-INCH TELEVISION CAN CONTAIN UP TO 8 POUNDS OF LEAD.

AS UNIVERSAL WASTES, THESE WASTES ARE NOT SUBJECT TO TRADITIONAL HAZARDOUS WASTE REQUIREMENTS, BUT ARE SUBJECT TO MANAGEMENT CONTROLS BASED ON THE RISK THEY POSE TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

PLEASE CONTACT THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, SOLID WASTE AT (805) 681-4336.