

Product Recycling

Recycling End-of-Life Products

Recycling Four Categories of Home Appliances

The recovery and recycling of four categories of home appliances are mandatory under Japan's Home Appliance Recycling Law:* air conditioners, televisions (CRT, LCD and plasma), refrigerators/freezers, and washing machines/tumble dryers.

In 1999, Mitsubishi Electric began operations of Hyper Cycle Systems Corporation (HCS) as the industry's first home appliance recycling plant. Between then and fiscal 2020, we recycled 890 kt of appliances. Data on the recovery and recycling of nationwide Mitsubishi Electric appliances in the four designated categories in fiscal 2020 is shown below.

* Home Appliance Recycling Law (April 2001): This law obliges retailers and manufacturers to recover and recycle home appliances such as air conditioners, televisions, refrigerators, and washing machines. Manufacturers and importers must recycle steel, copper, aluminum, glass, plastic, and other materials, and are also responsible for setting up systems to recycle their own products. The law was amended in December 2008 to add tumble driers and LCD and plasma televisions.

Weight of the Four Categories of Mitsubishi Electric Appliances That Have Been Recycled or Otherwise Processed



Weight of the Four Categories of Mitsubishi Electric Appliances That Have Been Recycled



Mitsubishi Electric holds Environmental Design Technology Seminars to showcase technologies developed at its recycling centers and see how they can be applied to everyday product design. Developing technologies for sorting materials recovered from end-of-life home appliances and techniques applicable to recycled materials also increases the amount of recycled material that can be used in our products.

→For the actual results of recovery/recycling, etc. of the four designated categories of home appliances, please refer to "Results of Recovery and Recycling of Four Categories of Home Appliances" on page 42.

Recycling Personal Computers

Mitsubishi Electric promotes recycling of end-of-life personal computers and monitors. In fiscal 2020, we recovered a total of 5,966 office and home computers, with recycling ratios above statutory targets.*1

We started using the PC Recycle Mark*2 verification logo to show that end-of-life home computers can be disposed of without charge. Customers must request the mark after purchase for some products, but the procedure is very simple and involves nothing more than sending a postcard or applying via our site.*3 For products sold after October 2003 where the customer asks us for disposal, we check if the product is eligible for the PC Recycle Mark to make sure the customer does not pay the recycling fee twice.

Although preventing data leaks from hard drives during disposal of personal computers is essentially the user's responsibility, our subcontracted recycling agents do all they can to prevent data leaks, for example punching holes in hard drives and exposing them to strong magnetic fields to ensure physical and magnetic destruction. For office computers, we offer a paid service where customers can ask for all data to be erased by specialized software before recovery.

*1 Desktop computers: 50% or more
 Notebook computers: 20% or more
 CRT displays: 55% or more
 LCD displays: 55% or more

*2 PC Recycle Mark: The recycling mark stipulated by industry group PC3R Promotion Association, established to promote the 3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle) among manufacturers, distributors, and importers of computers and monitors. The scheme applies to home computers and monitors sold after October 2003. Some products have the mark displayed at the time of purchase, or it may be available after purchase via registration.

*3 Mitsubishi Electric stopped selling home computers in fiscal 1999, so only our PC displays are eligible for Recycle Mark applications.