



WEEE Wish You A Merry Christmas

All this talk of trees and puddings can only mean one thing: Christmas is coming! As with every year, the arrival of new presents under the tree with “Batteries Not Included” will lead to the traditional Christmas morning routine where families nationwide search in drawers, cupboards and under beds for the pack of batteries that they knew they bought, only to find when they eventually turn up that they’re wasted.

With an estimated equivalent of 80 million AA batteries being placed on the Irish market every year, WEEE Ireland, the Irish compliance scheme for electrical and battery recycling, is urging the people of Ireland not to throw these small but potentially harmful items in the bin. Instead, you can drop them off for recycling free of charge to any shop that sells similar batteries (E.g. household batteries or car batteries). There are 50,000 WEEE Ireland battery boxes in stores nationwide with more on the way so there’s never been a better time to recycle your old batteries. Better yet, you don’t have to buy anything in the shop to do it!

Literally all batteries and every household item with a plug or battery can be recycled for free. When you think of the amount of electrical items in your sitting room alone, you’ll see how it all adds up. Everything from **remote control cars**, to last year’s **games console**, to **hair straighteners** can all be brought back for **free** either to a shop where you are buying a similar item or to any of the 86 recycling centres nationwide.

So send your old batteries and electrical appliances to a better place and with this wee bit of effort, dreaming of a white Christmas could be a thing of the past as a green Christmas becomes the new reality.

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Facts about WEEE

- WEEE Ireland diverted approx. 280,000 waste televisions alone from landfill in 2007
- WEEE Ireland represents over 550 industry members
- WEEE Ireland has collected over 10m items of WEEE to date
- The equivalent of each person in Ireland recycled 9 Kg of household WEEE in 2007

About WEEE Ireland

WEEE Ireland, the Irish compliance scheme for electrical recycling, is a *not for profit* organisation, founded by producers of electrical and electronic appliances in order to comply with the legal obligations imposed by the WEEE Directive 2002/96/EC. WEEE Ireland organises the treatment and recycling of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) from authorised collection points in Ireland, on behalf of its members.

More recently, WEEE Ireland has also become the Irish compliance scheme for battery recycling to coincide with the implementation of the Batteries Directive 2006/66/EC.

WEEE Ireland works with permitted waste management companies and licensed treatment facilities to ensure WEEE and batteries are managed in an environmentally sound way. Over 75% of the waste electrical and electronic equipment collected is initially processed here in Ireland. On behalf of its industry members, WEEE Ireland has helped ensure almost 9kg of household WEEE per person in Ireland was collected for recycling in 2007 – more than double the EU target for Ireland of 4kg per head of population by 2008. For further information on recycling WEEE or batteries, log on to www.weeeireland.ie.

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