

Iowa DNR/Household Hazardous Materials

Material: Computers and Computer Monitors

Potential Hazards: Computers typically contain toxic heavy metals such as lead, mercury or arsenic. Lead is also present on the circuit boards as lead solder. Laptop computers will have lithium battery packs which can overheat and may cause a fire.

Computer monitors with cathode ray tubes (CRT) can contain 5-7 lbs of lead. Exposure to these heavy metals can lead to a decline in your mental, cognitive, and physical health.

Proper Disposal: Take unwanted computers and monitors to your local Regional Collection Center, find yours at iowadnr.gov/hhm, or look for local retailer return programs.

Green Alternatives: Look for Energy Star appliances or use a flat screen monitor which uses 1/3 of the energy of a CRT monitor.