



Metal matters

Metal Recyclers – electricals & vehicles



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zerowastescotland.org.uk

Overview

Recycling metals from end-of-life vehicles (ELVs) and waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) items, takes place at specially licenced facilities. Old cars and vans are often taken directly to authorised treatment facilities (ATFs), still commonly referred to as scrap, salvage or breakers yards. Here, vehicles will have any salvageable parts removed for onward sale, oils and fluids will be drained for safe disposal and the bulk of the vehicle will be crushed and then sold on to a metal reprocessor.

WEEE can often be taken to a recycling centre and some shops will also accept WEEE for recycling. These goods are collected by specialist companies who transport them to licenced facilities. Here, they are broken into their different material types for recycling or further processing. Some of the component materials might have to be disposed of if they cannot be recycled or processed.

There are producer responsibility regulations for WEEE. This means that manufacturers and retail outlets selling electronic goods, must contribute financially to support the collection of WEEE for recycling.

What goes in?

End-of-life vehicles: old cars and vans.

Waste electrical and electronic equipment: everything from battery-operated toys and games consoles to televisions, toasters and hairdryers.

What happens?



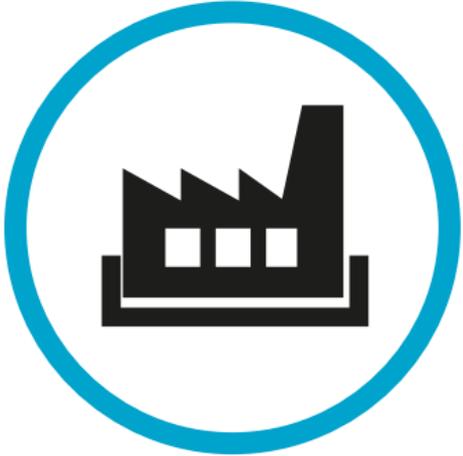
Electrical items can be dropped off at recycling centres and are sometimes collected at the kerbside.

They are then taken to licenced processing facilities.



ELVs can be taken directly to ATFs (licensed scrap yards).

Non-metal materials are removed and disposed of/ processed correctly.



Remaining metals are separated and stockpiled for onward transport/ reprocessing.

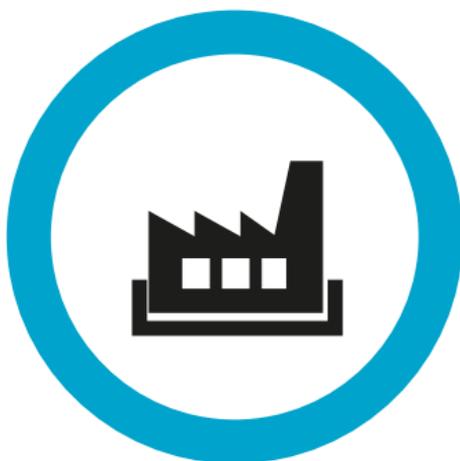
What comes out?



Metals: Many different metals can be recovered. The most commonly recycled are steel, zinc, tin, copper, aluminium and lead. Increasingly, rare earth metals (REMs) are being recycled as well. REMs are extremely valuable and are essential in a variety of high tech machines and gadgets including MRI scanners and touch-screen mobile phones.

Hazardous materials for processing or disposal:

Batteries, oils and so on can be found in ELVs and WEEE. These are removed and are safely stored before being transported for processing and suitable disposal. ELVs have the potential to release hazardous substances into the environment if they are not treated, recycled, or disposed of properly. Only ATFs are licensed to accept ELVs and they comply with regulations. SEPA's website has information on ATFs in Scotland.



Other recyclables material:

Other material such as plastic and fabric can be recovered for recycling.

Glossary

Hazardous material

Some materials are designated as hazardous or special waste because of their properties (e.g. poisonous, harmful to the environment, etc.). Not all facilities can accept hazardous materials/special waste. For more information, please see SEPA's website.

Licensed facilities

Facilities which have been assessed and have met the required standard to be issued with the relevant, necessary licence for operation.

Processing

These facilities deal with input materials in some way, for example by separating mixed recyclables, or separating an item into its metal and plastic components.

Producer responsibility

The idea that producers of waste, noise, pollution etc. should pay money to help reduce the impact of their activities.

Rare earth metals (REM)

These are rare metals found in very few locations across the globe. They are in high demand for a wide number of high-tech goods such as MRI scanners and smartphones.

Reprocessing

The process of turning material which has been collected for recycling into new products.

Reprocessor

A facility (or company) that takes in recyclable materials to turn them into new products.

Further information

Zero Waste Scotland (ZWS)

For more information on Zero Waste Scotland, its work and research, please visit: www.zerowastescotland.org.uk

For more information on waste facilities and how they are developed, please visit: www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/infrastructure

Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)

For information on waste regulation, licencing, data and more detailed technical information on facility types and the standards they are required to achieve, please visit:

www.sepa.org.uk

Recycle for Scotland

For more information on how to reduce, re-use and recycle, please visit: www.recycleforscotland.com

Videos

To watch videos explaining what different facilities do, please visit: www.recycleforscotland.com/facts-figures/facts-figures

Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM)

For more detailed and technical information on different facilities and on waste management issues in general, please visit:

www.ciwm.co.uk

Renewable Energy Association

For more information on thermal and biological treatment facilities which create energy from waste, please visit:

www.r-e-a.net/renewable-technologies

Environmental Services Association

For more information on waste management and the different types of facilities, please visit: www.esauk.org/



For more information about Zero Waste Scotland's terms and conditions, please visit www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/content/terms-conditions

If you have any questions please contact data@zerowastescotland.org.uk