



Electrical and electronic equipment - Information for private households:

The Electrical and Electronic Equipment Act (ElektroG) contains a large number of requirements for the handling of electrical and electronic equipment. The most important ones are summarized here.

1 Separate collection of end-of-life equipment

Electrical and electronic equipment that has become waste is referred to as end-of-life equipment. Owners of end-of-life equipment must dispose of it separately from unsorted municipal waste. In particular, electrical and electronic equipment does not belong in household waste, but in special collection and return systems.

2 Batteries, accumulators and lamps

As a rule, owners of end-of-life equipment must separate spent batteries and accumulators that are not enclosed in the end-of-life equipment, as well as lamps that can be removed from the end-of-life equipment without damaging it, from the end-of-life equipment before handing it in at a collection point. This does not apply if end-of-life equipment is prepared for re-use with the participation of a public waste management authority.

3 Options for the return of end-of-life equipment

Owners of end-of-life equipment from private households can return it free of charge to the collection points of the public waste management authorities or to the take-back points set up by manufacturers or distributors as defined by the ElektroG. An online list of collection and take-back points can be found here: <https://www.ear-system.de/ear-verzeichnis/sammel-und-ruecknahmestellen.jsf#no-back>

Stores with a sales area of at least 400 m² for electrical and electronic equipment as well as those grocery shops with a total sales area of at least 800 m² which offer electrical and electronic equipment several times a year or on a permanent basis and make it available on the market are obliged to take it back. This also applies to distribution using means of distance communication if the storage and dispatch areas for electrical and electronic equipment are at least 400 m² or the total storage and dispatch areas are at least 800 m². Distributors shall, in principle, ensure take-back by providing suitable return facilities within reasonable distance from the respective end-user.

The possibility of returning an end-of-life equipment free of charge exists for distributors who are obliged to take it back, among other things, if a new appliance of the same type, which essentially fulfils the same functions, is supplied to an end user.

If a new appliance is delivered to a private household, the similar end-of-life equipment may also be handed over there for collection free of charge; this applies in the case of distribution by means of distance communication for category 1, 2 or 4 according to Article 2 paragraph 1 ElektroG, namely "heat transmitters", "display screen equipment" or "large appliances" (the latter with at least one external dimension exceeding 50 centimeters). End-users are asked about their intention to return electrical and electronic equipment when they conclude a purchase contract. In addition, end-of-life equipment that do not exceed 25 centimeters in any external dimension can be returned free of charge and independently of the purchase of a new equipment at the collection points of the distributors. This return is limited to three old appliances per type of appliance.

4. Data protection notice

End-of-life equipment often contain sensitive personal data. This applies in particular to information and telecommunication technology devices such as computers and smartphones. In your own interest, please note that each end-user is responsible for deleting the data on the end-of-life equipment to be disposed of.

5 Meaning of the symbol "crossed-out dustbin



The symbol of a crossed-out wheeled bin regularly displayed on electrical and electronic equipment indicates that the respective equipment is to be collected separately from unsorted municipal waste at the end of its life.

6. reporting and information obligation on quantitative targets

Information on quantitative targets can be found at: <https://www.take-e-way.com/services/reporting-and-information-obligations-for-manufacturers/>