



## Conservation

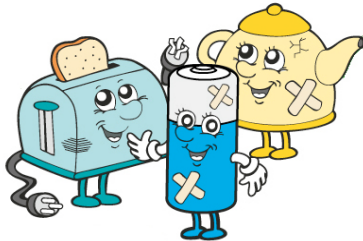
Sparky is the WEEE Ireland superhero. His mission is to keep Ireland green and remind us to recycle WEEE and waste batteries. Can you help him in his mission?

# Recycling

## Anything with a Plug or Battery

### What is WEEE?

WEEE stands for *Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment* - this is anything with a plug or battery at the end of its useful life.



Today electrical appliances help us in many ways, e.g. a vacuum cleaner helps clean our home and school or a washing machine helps us keep clothes clean. When these items can no longer do their work they can become waste and be recycled. Instead of putting these items into the normal rubbish bin, the materials they contain, such as metal, glass or plastic, can be taken out and used again to make new things.

We don't have to stop using the earth's resources but we do have to stop wasting them.

### Schools Awareness Campaign

If your school is interested in hearing more about WEEE and battery recycling, you can apply online at [www.recyclefree.ie](http://www.recyclefree.ie).

### The Recycling Process



### What happens to your recycled WEEE items?

These items go through a Recycling Process (see above). The items are brought to a WEEE collection area where they are sorted into different categories. The items are dismantled and recycled at specialised treatment plants. Some electrical items or batteries can contain chemicals that would be bad for our environment if they are not recycled properly. For examples, refrigerators contain certain chemicals that if released into the atmosphere could be harmful. Recycling can help keep these chemicals out of our environment and keep it clean.



### Where can you recycle WEEE?

- Local Recycling Centres have areas especially for WEEE. Look up your local council's website for more information about where these centres are located.
- If you or your family are buying a new electrical item, the shop will take back your old and broken item for recycling.
- WEEE collection events may be held in your area once or twice a year and your family can bring old electrical items to them for recycling. Visit [www.recyclefree.ie](http://www.recyclefree.ie) to see if one is in your area.

Information courtesy of WEEE Ireland. For more information visit [www.weeeireland.ie](http://www.weeeireland.ie)

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