

Appliance Recycling Fact Sheet



What refrigerator parts can be recycled?

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, "Almost all of the materials in your refrigerator or freezer can be recycled. This includes the metal cabinet, plastic liner, glass shelves, the refrigerant and oil in the compressor, and the blowing agent contained in polyurethane foam insulation."



01. Metal

140 lbs. of ferrous metal can be recovered and recycled from one refrigerator. According to the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc. using ferrous scrap, rather than virgin materials in the production of iron and steel, reduces CO2 emission by 58%.²

02. Plastic

Approximately 11 lbs. of plastic can be recovered from a standard refrigerator. According to Stanford; one ton of recycled plastic (approximately 182 refrigerators) saves 5,774 kWh of energy, 16.3 barrels of oil and 30 cubic yards of landfill space.³

03. Glass

Nearly 4 lbs. of glass is recycled from every refrigerator recycled. According to the Glass Packaging Institute over one ton of natural resources is saved for every ton of glass recycled.⁴

04. Refrigerants & Foam Blowing Agents

According to the US EPA the recovery of CFC, HCFC, and HFC refrigerants and foam-blowing agents from households appliances results in significant climate benefits. These substances contribute to the depletion of the ozone.⁵

05. Misc. Materials

Other miscellaneous materials are collected during the recycling process including used oil which is sometimes contaminated, mercury containing components and PCB capacitors.⁵

Recycling Facts



Average life of a refrigerator

15 years

You should consider recycling your fridge if it is over 15 years old. A newer more energy efficient fridge will save you money on your electric bill.⁶



Your spare fridge in the garage or basement may be costing you

The spare fridge in your garage or basement could be costing you more than you think in energy. These spare units tend to be older and therefore not as energy efficient.

An estimated 40% of used appliances collected by retailers on the secondary market are put back onto the electricity grid.⁵



When a fridge is put back onto the grid it will continue to operate inefficiently, which is why it is important to have your old fridge properly recycled.

Why Recycle Your old Fridge?





Save as much as \$260 on your electric bill over the next 5 years.⁶

Save Energy



By upgrading to a more energy efficient fridge you will use less energy.⁶

Save the Environment



Properly recycling your fridge prevents the release of ozonedepleting substances, greenhouse gases, PCBs, mercury, batteries and oil into the environment.⁵

References

- 1. https://www.epa.gov/section608/frequently-asked-questions-about-safe-disposal-refrigerated-household-appliances/
- 2. https://www.isri.org/
- 2. http://bgm.stanford.edu/pssi_faq_benefits/

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- 6. https://www.energystar.gov/products/appliances/nows_time_flip_your_fridge_and_save