

Electrical and electronic equipment Information for private households

The Electrical and Electronic Equipment Act (ElektroG) contains numerous requirements for handling electrical and electronic equipment. The most important ones are summarized here.

1. Separate collection of waste equipment

Electrical and electronic equipment that has become waste is referred to as waste equipment. Owners of waste equipment must ensure it is collected separately from unsorted municipal waste. Waste equipment must not be disposed of in household waste but rather through specific collection and return systems.

2. Batteries, accumulators, and lamps

Owners of waste equipment must remove waste batteries and accumulators that are not enclosed within the waste equipment, as well as lamps that can be removed without damage, before delivering the waste equipment to a collection point. This does not apply if the waste equipment is prepared for reuse with the involvement of a public waste disposal authority.

3. Options for returning waste equipment

Owners of waste equipment from private households can return it free of charge to collection points operated by public waste disposal authorities or to return points established by manufacturers or distributors under the ElektroG.

Retailers with a sales area of at least 400 m² for electrical and electronic equipment, as well as grocery stores with a total sales area of at least 800 m² that sell such equipment multiple times a year or on a continuous basis, are obligated to accept returns. This also applies to distance selling if the storage and shipping area for electrical and electronic equipment is at least 400 m², or if the total storage and shipping area is at least 800 m². Distributors must provide suitable return options within a reasonable distance for the end user.

The option to return waste equipment free of charge is available at obligated distributors when a new, similar device with essentially the same functions is provided to the end user. If a new device is delivered to a private household, the similar waste equipment can also be handed over for free collection at the same time. This applies to distance selling for devices in categories 1, 2, or 4 under Section 2(1) ElektroG, namely "heat exchangers," "screen devices," or "large appliances" (the latter having at least one external dimension exceeding 50 centimeters). End users will be asked about their intention to return corresponding equipment when concluding a purchase contract. Additionally, small waste equipment with no external dimension larger than 25 centimeters can be returned free of charge at distributor collection points, regardless of the purchase of a new device, limited to three items per equipment type.

4. Data protection notice

Waste equipment often contains sensitive personal data. This is especially true for information and telecommunications technology devices such as computers and smartphones. Please note, in your own interest, that end users are responsible for deleting the data on the waste equipment to be disposed of.

5. Significance of the "crossed-out wheelie bin" symbol



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