



*Serving Jo Daviess, Stephenson and Winnebago Counties*

### **2018 NOTICE ON ELECTRONICS RECYCLING:**

The University of Illinois Extension is working to offer another Electronics Recycling Collections this year. However, due to cuts in grant funding for these types of events it may not happen. If you would like to learn about alternative options for recycling your electronics or other items please call the University of Illinois Extension at (815) 235-4125.

Here are some other businesses you may contact for your recycling needs:

~**Keep Northern IL Beautiful**, Rockford, IL 815-637-1343

See website for locations and programs at: <http://www.knib.org/>

*(Will take most **anything** including metals, electronics, & more! Computers can be taken to the recycle centers in Rockford & Roscoe; please call to verify items taken hours.)*

~ **Staples, Inc.** 1722-1724 South West Ave, Freeport, IL 815-235-2563

*(Will take anything that they would sell like printers, computers, laptops, monitors, etc no TV's.)*

~ **Goodwill of Freeport** 2030 W. Galena Ave, Freeport, IL 815-232-7642

*(Will take electronics, metals, plastics, but NO TV's.)*

~ **Northwest Metals in Lena (Salvage Yard)** Call Bob at 815-541-3223

*(Takes working or non-working TV's and old appliances, but call first, as only takes a few/week.)*

~ **Freeport Recycle Store** Located in old Lincoln Mall at 1287 W. Galena in Freeport 815-297-7506

*(Non-profit, accepting & selling donations with all proceeds donated to area charities)*

~ **City of Galena** Electronics recycling on the last Friday of each month at City Hall from 8:00 a.m to 1:30 p.m. It is open to anyone. Television and computer monitors are accepted during this time period for a fee of \$25 per unit. Batteries and CFL Light Bulbs are also accepted at this location.

Medications can be recycled at the Police Department at 311 N. Bench St.

~ **Mowery Auto Parts**, 686 N. VanBuren Ave. Freeport IL, 61032 at 815-599-0480

*(Aluminum (including cans), Batteries, Brass, Converters, Copper, Farm machinery, Iron, Radiators, Tin)*

~**Groeling Salvage**, 220 E. Exchange St, Freeport, IL 61032 at 815-232-2525

*(Complete salvage service yard providing salvage, scrap metal services, and junk cars)*

~**Freeport Police Department/Medication Disposal**, 320 W. Exchange Street, Freeport, IL

*(Free, environmentally safe disposal of waste medications available through FHN and local law enforcement in **MedReturn** boxes located in the lobby of the police department-NO Sharps!)*

**Batteries:** Many batteries contain toxic chemicals like mercury, nickel, and cadmium. If such batteries end up in a landfill, those chemicals can leach into the soil or water system. Always take rechargeable batteries to your nearest local recycling drop-off, which you can find at Call2Recycle. Although alkaline batteries are less harmful, homeowners should still deliver them to a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facility for safe disposal.

- **Fastenal: 1261 Grant St., Freeport, IL 815-235-3338**
- **Staples: 1722 S. West Ave., Freeport, IL 815-235-2563**

**Paint:** Because leftover paint is flammable and poisonous, it must be disposed of safely. One option is to leave the can open until the remaining paint dries, then bring it to a recycling center that handles scrap metal. Alternatively, you can bring paint to your local HHW facility, which you can find by visiting [Earth911.com](http://Earth911.com).

**Motor Oil:** After you finish up a DIY oil change, never toss the used motor oil in the trash. The flammable and toxic substance may contaminate water and soil. Instead, bring the used oil to your local automotive repair shop, which might clean and reuse it. Homeowners can also take motor oil or transmission fluid to an HHW facility.

- **Auto Zone: 1535 S. West Ave, Freeport, IL 815-232-2943**
- **O'Reilly Auto Parts: 1515 S. West Ave., Freeport, IL 815-297-0717**
- **Walmart Tire & Lube: 2545 Rt 26 S., Freeport, IL 815-232-8120**

**Electronics:** Most Americans own a multitude of electronic devices, from flat-screen TVs to smartphones. But all of these tech accessories contain heavy metals, such as lead and cadmium, which can be toxic to the environment if thrown away. To help keep electronics out of the waste stream, the EPA offers a list of companies that provide recycling options for electronics.

- **Goodwill 2030 W. Galena Ave., Freeport, 815-232-7642** - Desktop & Laptop Computers, Cables, CRT Monitors, Keyboards, Mice & Computer Speakers, Game Consoles, Printers, Scanners, Eyeglasses, Office Machines, Telephones, Cell phones, Toner Cartridges
- **Staple's: 1724 South West Ave., Freeport, IL 61032 (815) 235-2563** - Desktop & Laptop Computers, Cables, CRT Monitors, Keyboards, Mice & Computer Speakers, Game Consoles, Printers, Scanners, Eyeglasses, Office Machines, Telephones, Cell phones, Toner Cartridges, Digital Cameras, GPS Systems, MP3 Players, Tablets

**Mercury Thermometers:** If you still have an old-school glass thermometer that contains mercury and you've finally decided to get rid of it, don't toss it in the trash. If the thermometer breaks open, the mercury (which is a neurotoxin) becomes a health and environmental hazard.

- **Visit [Earth911.com](http://Earth911.com) for several mail-in program options.**

**Prescription Drugs:** Don't flush unused medications down the toilet, since they can leach into the water supply and disrupt aquatic life. Instead, find a safe place to bring your old and unused prescriptions at [disposemy meds.org](http://disposemy meds.org).

**Fluorescent Light Bulbs:** Homeowners can throw burnt-out incandescent light bulbs right in the trash, but fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) contain mercury, a hazardous element that can't be disposed of in the regular trash without negatively impacting the environment. Take old fluorescent light bulbs to your local Household Hazardous Waste facility for recycling.

- **Visit [Earth911.com](http://Earth911.com) for several mail-in program options.**

**Lawn Chemicals:** Chemical-based lawn and garden fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides should never be poured down the drain or thrown away in the garbage, as their ingredients can be harmful both to living things and the broader ecosystem. You can take lawn chemicals to your local Household Hazardous Waste facility for disposal, or better yet, give them away to a friend or neighbor.

**Smoke Detectors:**

Ionization Chamber Smoke Detectors (ICSDs) have a small amount of radioactive material inside that helps them detect smoke, so they have to be recycled with the manufacturer or taken to your local HHW facility. Photoelectric smoke detectors don't contain radioactive material and can be dropped off at any facility that recycles electronics. If you have a combination smoke detector, it needs to be treated like an ICSD.

- **Visit [Earth911.com](http://Earth911.com) for several mail-in program options.**

**Fireworks:** It may seem obvious, but fireworks should never be thrown away in the garbage without proper preparation. Soak any dud or unexploded fireworks in water for at least 24 hours to render the gunpowder inert, then double-wrap them in plastic wrap or plastic bags so they won't dry out. Only then can they be disposed of in the regular trash. Some municipalities will take fireworks for disposal as well.

**Tires:** It's actually illegal to throw tires in the trash, because the steel belts inside them can puncture the liners in landfills and cause ground contamination. Most car dealers and tire retailers will recycle your old tires—typically for a price. Another option: You can often pay your trash service to pick them up for you.