

Cell Phone FACTS

- An estimated 250 to 300 million cell phones are being used in the U.S.
- The average American cell phone user owns three (3) or more expired cell phones.
- The average US consumer only uses their current cell phone for 12 to 18 months.
- Over 70% of Americans do not know that they can recycle their old cell phone.
- In a recent survey, only 2.3% of Americans recycled their old cell phones and 7% threw them in the garbage.
- Cell phones contain precious metals such as gold and silver.
- A total of 500 million cell phones weighing an estimated 250,000 tons are currently stockpiled and awaiting disposal.
- Cell phones contain numerous substances that need to be disposed of in a safe and efficient manner:
 1. The **Cadmium** in the battery from a single old phone could seriously contaminate 600,000 gallons of water, enough to fill a third of an Olympic-sized swimming pool. Cadmium is being phased out of new batteries.
 2. **Lead** – which affects the immune, endocrine and central nervous systems, and causes serious damage to children's brains – is used to solder components to the printed wiring boards.
 3. **Brominated flame retardants**, used in wiring boards and plastic cases, have been associated with cancer, liver damage and problems with the neurological, immune and endocrine systems.
 4. **Beryllium**, which can cause serious lung damage, is used in contacts and springs and highly toxic dioxins can be emitted if the phones are incinerated in waste plants.

Source: EnviroSmart