

Disposing of Old Devices Safely

Now that you've gotten those fun new electronic gadgets for Christmas, you'll need to dispose of your old ones. You can't just toss them in the garbage and start fresh with the latest iPhone since they're full of your photos, emails, banking information and other important information.

Luckily, you can safely get rid of your old cell phone, tablet, laptop or desktop computer, then start enjoying those new devices with fiber-fast internet from **GoSEMO Fiber**.

Back It Up

The first step is to back up your information. Backing up your [data regularly](#) — even when you're not getting rid of your device — is a good habit to get into. Whether it's music you've downloaded, documents you've typed or pics you've snapped, backing up is a form of insurance in case your computer ever crashes or gets hacked.

When discarding an old device, think about what you want to keep. Some people back up everything and sort through it later, and there's nothing wrong with that! But if you've owned your device for a while, backing up every single file might be a lengthy endeavor. You might prefer to pick and choose what you save.

Either way, you have three options for backing up your device. [Data migration](#) is a techy-sounding term for when data gets moved from one location to another. In this case, we're talking specifically about storage migration, when information is changing storage mediums.

Device to Device – Some devices, like desktop computers, will allow you to transfer data between devices. Using Migration Assistant for either [Mac](#) and [Windows](#), you can even transfer between the two different systems – although the process can be a little tricky for the less tech-savvy.

External Storage – In this case, your external storage device will be the middleman. You start by transferring all your data to a separate device. Depending on how much data you have, your drive could be as small as a USB flash drive or as big as an external hard drive.

The Cloud – The cloud is the current favorite for data migration because it's super easy and doesn't require any extra hardware. This transfers all your data to the cloud via the internet. Once complete, your files can be accessed from any device. It's fast, simple and secure, making it the optimal choice for data migration beginners.

Do a Final Cleanup

Before you toss your old device, be sure to log out of all your websites, wipe any saved passwords and unpair your devices. Finally, erase the computer's [hard drive](#). You're washing

your digital fingerprint from the device and protecting yourself in the process. Most computers and mobile devices can be restored to factory settings through built-in utilities.

Toss It Without Hurting the Environment

Because empty devices are filled with electronic components and substances like lead, mercury and cadmium, they're hazardous material and [shouldn't go into a landfill](#). Take it to your local hazardous and electronic waste depot. If it still has some life in it, consider donating it to someone else who might enjoy it!

Now you're set to enjoy your new gadgets! Don't forget you'll need great internet to get the most out of them. Call **GoSEMO Fiber** today to learn what's available in your area.

