# Cell Phone recycling

## What happens to your phone when you recycle it and how it helps the environment

### Why should I recycle my phone?

Cell phones contain harmful toxins including lead, mercury, arsenic, cadmium, chlorine and bromine. If they end up in landfill these toxins can damage the environment. Recycling your phone helps the environment by extending its lifecycle and keeping it out of landfill. You can also get cash for your old phone so it’s a win-win.

### Your phone’s recycling journey

See below for what happens to your phone as it starts its new life once you recycle it through SellCell.

### Testing and payment

Select the company you want to recycle your phone to and then ship it to them. Once received it will get extensively tested to discover any faults and assess its condition. If it’s in the condition you stated you’ll get paid the full amount. If it’s in a worse condition you’ll get a revised offer which you can either accept or have the device returned to you.

### Repair and refurbish

If our phone has faults or damage it will then go through a repair and refurbishment process. This generally consist of either:

Fixing the faults and leaving the cosmetic condition as it is.

Fully refurbishing the device back to ‘like new’ condition.

### Grading

Each device is then graded by condition so that it can be easily resold. Typical grades for mobile phones range from ‘new’ to ‘broken/non-working’.

### A new life for your phone

After the above steps your phone will then be resold on to a new owner. As the process of the latest phones continues to go up there are many consumers that choose to buy a pre-owned or refurbished phone instead. This has created a huge global demand for used phones. By recycling our phone it extends the lifecycle of the device and keeps it put of landfill. Plus it helps others who want to buy pre-owned phones.

### Where does your phone end up?

Of the phones recycled in the US by SellCcell approximately 90% get sold to new owners domestically in the US and about 10% get exported internationally to other countries where there is a big demand for pre-owned phones such as China, South America, India and Africa.

### Phone lifecycle – 4.5 lives over 9 years

Our research shows that on average a phone recycled through SellCell gets resold 4.5 times and its lifecycle spans an incredible 9 years before it finally reaches the end of its useful life! With Americans on average keeping their phone for 23 months before changing this extends its lifecycle by almost 5 times. In this way cell phone recycling is genuinely helping the environment.

### End of the line

Phones generally can continue working even longer than 9 years but there comes a time when a phone is so old that there is no longer any resale demand. At this point it’s dismantled and the materials inside are recycled.

The average phone actually contains small amounts of precious materials such as gold, silver, palladium, platinum, copper, aluminium, zinc, graphite and cobalt. There’s also the glass and plastic which can be recycled. Some of these materials are becoming increasingly hard to extract so by recycling old phones it helps reduce the need to mine for new materials and the environmental impact associated.

## By recycling your phone, it keeps it out of landfill and assures it has a long, useful life that benefits the environment. So check our drawers for any old phones or tablets and recycle them today.

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