

Get cash for recycling your old mobile, for example, £150 for an iPhone 8

There are sound environmental reasons to recycle your old phone, given there are potentially noxious substances in decaying handsets. It's reckoned cadmium batteries can infect the water system, while lead, brominated flame retardants and beryllium can all harm the environment if disposed of incorrectly. So whatever you do, DON'T throw your old phone out with your rubbish.

Even better though, you can get paid to recycle your mobile. There are specialist, super-speedy companies which will take an old phone and give you cash in exchange. For example, we found one that pays £150 for a 256GB iPhone 8 (it's £116 if you have the 64GB version). And if your handset's really old and not worth anything, they'll at least dispose of it safely.

How to sell your old mobile

To check lots of firms at speed and ensure you find the top payer, it's best to use one or more comparison sites. No single comparison site covers ALL the mobile phone recyclers, and the price you're offered can vary depending on the site you're checking on, so ideally search all three of the big ones. See the [Sell old mobiles](#) guide for full details and our suggested order to check them in.

What happens to the phones?

Once they're tested, if the phones are decent, they're shipped abroad and flogged. For example, Envirofone sells phones in the Middle East, Far East, Africa and South America.

If it's a particularly high-value phone, there's a chance these companies will sell it on [eBay*](#) to get the most money. Therefore if you find your phone is high value, you may want to consider doing that yourself and cutting out the middleman (see the [eBay selling tricks](#) guide).

If your phone is of a lower value, then it'll be broken down and sold off as component parts. And if it's not worth anything, these companies will dispose of it in an environmentally friendly way.