

Earth Day is Saturday so I'm again looking at how to keep electronics out of the trash and landfills. The best way is to keep your computers working longer. Laptops and desktop computers should last much longer than they used to but many people think the reason their computer is working slowly or wonky, is because it's too old. I'm looking at a few things everyone forgets when it comes to keeping their computers working correctly. CHECK THE ANCHOR INTRO. I'M NOT MENTIONING EARTH DAY IN THE PACKAGE IF YOU DECIDE TO RUN THE PACKAGE AFTER SATURDAY.

TRT 133
STD OUT

SUPERS

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ON-CAMERA TEASE

what's the best way to keep computers out of landfills? Recycling and making your computer last longer. I'm Jamey Tucker coming up with a few things you can do to add years to the life of your computer.

ANCHOR INTRO

EARTH DAY IS SATURDAY AND YOU MAY BE THINKING OF WAYS TO HELP THE ENVIRONMENT. AND THERE'S AT LEAST ONE THING YOU MAY NOT HAVE CONSIDERED. HOW TO KEEP YOUR COMPUTERS WORKING LONGER.

ABOUT 80 PERCENT OF COMPUTERS END UP IN LANDFILLS AND MANY OF THOSE ARE THROWN AWAY TOO EARLY. THEY STILL WORK. OUR CONSUMER TECHNOLOGY REPORTER JAMEY TUCKER SHOWS US HOW TO EXTEND THE LIFESPAN OF A COMPUTER AND SAVE A LOT OF MONEY.

PACKAGE SCRIPT

Not long ago, computers had a lifespan of about 6 years. not anymore. if you take a few steps to keep them running, a computer is perfectly fine for over 10 years.

The biggest culprits that kill computers too soon are viruses and spyware. Clicking on a malicious link in an email or a website can install computer killers. Those links can look legitimate and even be included in a Facebook or Google ad. Windows and Macs have their own anti-virus software and spyware blockers. Make sure they're installed and active.

And never give someone the remote control of your computer. These scammers might say they're with Microsoft. They'll ask you to type a few letters in a box so they can make repairs. Instead, they're installing viruses, spyware, and programs that steal your information.

If your machine gets infected, don't throw it away immediately. C-Cleaner is free software that scans and cleans out the registry.

Keep it cool by cleaning out the vents with a can of compressed air. The age-old question is, should you turn it off or leave it on? Don't turn it off every night, but do it once a week to install updates.

Lastly, upgrade the hard drive to a solid state or SSD. They don't have spinning parts that can go bad. Unless you know what you're doing, find a computer repair shop that'll install it for you.

You probably don't want to spend \$200 to repair a \$300 computer. Otherwise, save money and save the environment by keeping the computer you have now last a lot longer. That's What the Tech? I'm Jamey Tucker

ANCHOR TAG

THE E.P.A. SAYS EVERY YEAR AMERICANS TOSS OVER A QUARTER TON OF COMPUTERS INTO THE TRASH WHICH EVENTUALLY WINDS UP IN LANDFILLS. THOSE COMPUTERS CONTAIN HARMFUL MATERIALS THAT LEAD TO MANY TYPES OF HEALTH PROBLEMS.

WEB STORY

Every year Americans toss over a quarter of a ton of computers into the trash. They eventually wind up in landfills. What many people don't realize is computers contain hazardous materials such as chromium and lead which can cause health problems.

How can you keep an old computer out of a landfill? By recycling of course, but an even better way is to extend the lifespan of your computer.

Not long ago, computers had a lifespan of about 6 years. A decade ago computer upgrades significantly improved their computing power and speed. Today's computers can do most of what 10-year-old computers can do. So there isn't as big of a rush to replace an older computer with a new one.

You can save money and the environment by keeping the computer you use now for another few years. Here are a few tips to keep computers working past their prime:

The biggest culprits that kill computers too soon are viruses and spyware. Clicking on a malicious link in an email or a website can install computer killers. Those links can look legitimate and even be included in a Facebook or Google ad.

Install third-party anti-virus and anti-malware programs to scan and monitor your machine as you use it.

Windows and Macs have their own anti-virus software and spyware blockers. Make sure they're installed and active.

Never give someone the remote control of your computer. These scammers might say they're with Microsoft. They'll ask you to type a few letters in a box so they can make repairs. Instead, they're installing viruses, spyware, and programs that steal your information. One computer repair expert friend told me most of the computers people bring to him are infected with malware from this tactic.

If your machine gets infected, don't throw it away immediately. C-Cleaner is free software that scans and cleans out the registry. After running that program run an anti-malware program such as Malwarebytes.

Or, take it to a trusted computer technician who, maybe for a couple of hundred dollars can get it running again.

Keep the computer cool by cleaning out the vents with a can of compressed air.

Don't turn off the computer every night, but do it once a week to install updates.

I found a complete reset can help a slow computer. Turn it off and unplug the power cable, wait a few minutes or overnight, and start everything up again.

Lastly, upgrade the hard drive to a solid state or SSD. They don't have spinning parts that can go bad. Unless you know what you're doing, find a computer repair shop that'll install it for you.

Granted you probably won't want to spend \$200 to repair a \$300 computer. Recycle it. Otherwise, save money and save the environment by keeping the computer you have for a few more years.