Should we worry about e-waste? I mean most things with an ‘e-’ (or an ‘i-’) in the beginning of their name are nifty and useful and nice. E-waste sounds like something virtual, something untouchable. Something that only exists in the world of bits and bytes. Kinda like what happens when you write an assignment that the teacher doesn’t read or when you lose a ton of mp3’s when your iPod falls into the pool.

**It is anything electronic or related to electronics that is thrown out. Think old computer, broken keyboards, dead (or unwanted) cellphones, TVs, Game Boys, even batteries.** **What exactly is e-waste?**

How can e-waste be killer nasty? It’s all about what gets used to make the parts in the device. Lead is used in soldering. Ever heard of lead poisoning? It’s not a nice way to die. Mercury is used in the manufacturing of the actual circuit (PCB) boards. Arsenic is used in making glass. The list goes on. Recycling is the responsible solution. It is a fact that many of the materials that go into making electronic devices are toxic or carcinogenic or both.

How old are you? In your lifetime how many phones and gadgets have you had? How many have your parents or other family members had? What happens to the devices that are not wanted or not used anymore? Sure, they may end up in a drawer or a box for a while, but eventually they get chucked out, right? In the trash, just like anything else… Come to think of it, how many batteries have you chucked in the trash?

**E-waste in Industrialised Economies**