

Instruction Note

Recycling CD, CD-ROM and DVD in Switzerland

1. Music CDs, CD-ROMs and DVDs have become an every-day storage medium. Several million of these silver disks are put onto the market each year. Music CDs and video DVDs normally have a long useful life. By contrast, CD-ROMs containing software and other information carriers such as catalogues for fairs, spare parts or products only have a medium to short useful life.
2. It makes sense to return CDs and DVDs to the material cycle. The polycarbonate can be recycled and reused as a valuable material. However, significant amounts are required for recycling. It therefore makes sense to accumulate, and put out for collection, such products in schools and companies where used equipment is also collected (collection order for companies (www.swicorecycling.ch)). Incidentally, this rule also applies to other consumables such as toner and ink cartridges.
3. CDs and DVDs can be handed in where they are sold, i.e. to the trade or at SWICO's official collection points (www.swicorecycling.ch). You can also hand in small quantities there.
4. Polycarbonate is a plastic that is highly transparent and has strong heat resistant properties. The material is also in demand as a secondary raw material due to the high manufacturing cost of new polycarbonate.

Polycarbonate accounts for more than 90% of CDs and DVDs. If they are fed into the recycling process, they are processed as granulate once aluminium, paints, adhesive films and stickers have been removed. The granulate can subsequently be reused to manufacture new plastic parts.