



# How Much Of Our E-Waste Is Exported Each Year?

Each year, we export more than 5000 shipping containers of e-waste, which if stacked in one column would be eight miles high – higher than most airplanes fly.

50,000 feet		Stacked containers of exported E-waste would reach 43,826 feet or 8 MILES HIGH	
40,000 feet		<p>39,000 ft</p>	<p>29,035 ft</p>
30,000 feet			
20,000 feet			
10,000 feet			
We export the equivalent of 5126 shipping containers (40' x 8.5') EACH YEAR.	<b>5126 stacked shipping containers would reach 8 miles high</b>	<b>Higher than the altitude of trans-Atlantic flights</b>	<b>1.5 ties as high as Mt Everest</b>

The EPA reports that only 12.5% of discarded electronic waste is recovered for recycling. That was 330,000 tons of e-waste in 2005.<sup>1</sup> But recycling industry experts estimate that of that 12.5%, from 50% to 80% of it is exported overseas. So if we use the lower 50% number, or 165,000 tons, that would fill 5156 shipping containers, assuming 40' by 8.5 foot containers, holding 32 tons each. If you stacked 5156 shipping containers in a tower, it would reach over 8 miles high, as high as 30 empire state buildings and 1.5 Mt. Everests.

<sup>1</sup> US EPA, Municipal Solid Waste In the United States, 2005 Facts and Figures, October 2006.  
<http://www.epa.gov/msw/pubs/mswchar05.pdf>