

OF INTEREST

Hold the phone! Here's what you can do with that old cell

Chances are you've got a few discarded cell phones lying around, gathering dust in a drawer or desk.

By some counts, cell-crazed Americans have upward of 100 million wireless phones sitting idle. Whether that's even remotely true, there's no doubt Americans are sitting on hundreds of handsets.

So what to do with all those old Razrs, Nokias and flip-phones? Sell them? Donate? Recycle? Toss them in the trash?

The last is clearly the worst option. So scratch that option.

If you've got unwanted cell

phones to discard, here are your best options: Sell for cash, donate to charity or recycle as e-waste.

If your phone still works and isn't too scratched or beat up, it may be worth selling. Sites like cellforcash.com or gazelle.com let you type in your cell phone model and get a price quote.

Some companies warn upfront that the older your model, the less likely it's got any resale value left.

Gazelle.com, for instance, will pay anywhere from \$7 for a Motorola Razr V3 up to \$219 for certain 3G iPhones or \$269 for a Blackberry Storm2. The offers are

based on the phone's condition and usability and whether you still have cables, batteries and other accessories.

Want your cell phone to help a good cause? Lots of sites take donated phones, then sell or recycle the parts and use the proceeds to support everything from low-income home rebuilding to kidney research.

Cell Phones for Soldiers, for instance, sells donated phones to recyclers and uses the proceeds to purchase prepaid calling cards for military members serving overseas. Another charitable

source is the 911 Cell Phone Bank, which works with more than 1,000 law enforcement and victim-abuse groups nationwide to provide emergency 911 cell phones to those in need.

Old phones capable of making a 911 call — about 4,000 a month — are cleaned, refurbished and shipped to one of 600 police and sheriff's departments or to hundreds of victims groups for women, children and seniors.

(For details, go to 911cellphonebank.org or call (866) 290-7864.)

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