

BATTERY RECYCLING GUIDE

Batteries are used in a variety of devices in the home and in the workplace. They are also manufactured in all shapes and sizes. Some batteries contain hazardous materials such as mercury, silver, lead or cadmium. While there are a great variety of batteries in use today, all at some point in time will no longer be usable.

Unwanted batteries should be properly disposed. Proper disposal begins with proper identification. Once you have identified the type, follow these disposal instructions for the type of battery you have.

ALKALINE and CARBON-ZINC (sometimes labeled as "Heavy-duty" or "General purpose")

Description: Mainly produced in the following sizes: A, AA, AAA, C, D, N, 9-volt and lantern. Not rechargeable.

Use: Flashlights, cameras, portable stereos, radios, compact disc players, smoke detectors, clocks, and other products

Disposal: Contact your local Clean Sweep program for recycling options. **OK to throw** in the garbage if they were made after 1993. If made prior to 1993, the batteries may contain hazardous materials

AUTOMOTIVE

Description: Lead Acid

Use: Cars, motorcycles, boats, golf carts, other products

Disposal: Contain hazardous materials. **Do not** throw in the garbage. Businesses selling automotive batteries are required to take used batteries (up to 5 per consumer) whether you buy a new one or not.



RECHARGEABLE

Description: Lithium ion, nickel cadmium, nickel metal hydride, small sealed lead acid. Look for the RBRC seal. Mainly produced in the following sizes: D, C, AAA, AA, 9-volt and battery packs of various shapes.

Use: Cell phones, cordless phones, laptop computers, personal care products, power tools, video cameras, other cordless products

Disposal: Some contain hazardous metals. **Do not** throw them in the garbage. For recycling locations near you, call Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation at 1-877-2-RECYCLE or visit www.call2recycle.org.



BUTTON

Description: May be alkaline, lithium, mercuric oxide, nickel cadmium, silver oxide or zinc air. Also, these may be combined into stacks to produce cylindrical batteries.

Use: Cameras, calculators, handheld games, hearing aids, keyless remotes, personal digital assistants, watches, other products

Disposal: Some may contain hazardous metals. **Do not** throw in the garbage. Some Clean Sweep programs accept button batteries at their household hazardous waste collection site.

Updated 06/2012 by Joe Van Rossum, SHWEC Recycling Specialist.

For further information contact:

Madison
UW Extension
610 Langdon Street, Room 317
Madison, WI 53703
608.262.0385 tel
608.262.6250 fax

Milwaukee
UWM UW-Extension
161 West Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 6000
Milwaukee WI 53203
414.227.3160 tel
414.227.3165 fax

Stevens Point
University of Wisconsin
800 Reserve Street
Stevens Point, WI 54481
715.346.2793 tel
715.346.3624 fax

Confused about what household batteries you can recycle?

Use the chart below to help figure out which household batteries you can easily recycle, usually at no or low cost. Lead acid vehicle batteries **MUST** be recycled under state law and can be returned to any car battery dealer at no cost to you. Other batteries, listed as “Difficult to recycle”, may be recyclable but at a higher cost. If recycling is not a viable option, you can throw these batteries in the trash.

Where to Recycle? Call your local recycling program for information on where to take batteries for recycling, or go to dnr.wi.gov and search “markets directory” to find a recycler.

Battery Type	Uses	Sizes
EASY TO RECYCLE		
Reusable Alkaline Manganese (Rechargeable)	Flashlights, toys, clocks, portable electronics, smoke alarms, remote controls	AAA, AA, C, D
Lithium/Lithium Ion	Portable electronics, power tools, computer packs	3V, 6V, 9V, Button, AAA, AA, C, D
Nickel-Cadmium (Rechargeable)	Flashlights, toys, cellular phones, power tools, computer packs, R/C hobby vehicles	AAA, AA, C, D, 6V, 9V
Nickel-Metal Hydride (Rechargeable)	Same as Nickel-Cadmium (above)	AAA, AA, C, D, 6V, 9V
Sealed Lead Acid (Rechargeable)	Video cameras, power tools, wheelchairs, ATV's, metal detectors, clocks, cameras	Multiples of 2 Volts: 2V, 6V, 12V
Lead Acid Vehicle Batteries (banned from WI landfills)	Cars, trucks, motorcycles, boats and other vehicles	12V, 6V
DIFFICULT TO RECYCLE		
Button- multiple types	Watches, hearing aids, small portable electronics, computer motherboards, toys, greeting cards, remote controls	Sizes Vary
Alkaline (Manganese)	Flashlights, toys, clocks, portable electronics, smoke alarms, remote controls	AAA, AA, C, D, 6V, 9V
Carbon Zinc	Low drain devices, such as calculators, toys, clocks, smoke alarms, remote controls, transistor radios, garage door openers	AAA, AA, C, D, 6V, 9V
Zinc-air	Hearing aids, medical devices	Button, 9V
Silver Oxide	Watches, hearing aids, toys, greeting cards, remote controls	Sizes Vary
Mercury Oxide (now banned in US)	Watches, calculators, hearing aids	Sizes Vary

