

Household Battery Fact Sheet



Each year over two billion household batteries are purchased in the United States to power a variety of products. Some household batteries contain toxic metals like mercury, lead, cadmium, and silver, which can contaminate our air and water when the batteries are incinerated or disposed of in a landfill. Eventually these metals can accumulate in living tissue and cause adverse health effects.

Size alone isn't the best guide - some of the tiniest batteries are the most hazardous! Before discarding, first identify the type, then follow the disposal instructions listed below. Check the label, package, or place of purchase to determine the type of battery.

All types of used household batteries are accepted at:

1. Hennepin County HHW Drop-Off Facilities in Brooklyn Park & Bloomington.
2. Hennepin County Collection Bins located in many city halls, county libraries, and retail stores.
Go to www.hennepin.us/householdbatterydropoff or call 612-348-3777 for a location near you.



Carbon Zinc and Alkaline

Take to HHW facility or a battery collection site.

Also safe to place in trash.

Alkaline exceptions: If purchased in 1993 or earlier, take to a HHW facility or battery collection site. Alkaline batteries have been produced in the U.S., Europe, & Japan without mercury since at least 1993.

Examples of use: Flashlights, toys, radios, calculators, remote controls, electronic games, garage door openers, lanterns, fire and smoke detectors, and other products.



Lithium and Button

Take to HHW facility or a battery collection site.

To prevent short-circuiting, battery terminals must be taped or battery individually bagged before taking to HHW facility or battery collection site.

Examples of use: Cameras, computer memory back-up, watches, remote controls, hand-held games.

Reduce Waste: Use Rechargeables!

These batteries can be charged 300 - 600 times before they need to be brought to a recycling facility where they are taken apart and their metals are recovered. Like compact fluorescent bulbs, while the initial cost is higher, you save money in the long run.





Nickel Cadmium



Small Sealed Lead Acid



Lithium Ion



Nickel Metal Hydride

Rechargeable

Take to HHW facility, a battery collection site or contact the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corp. at 1-800-8-BATTERY.

Battery terminals must be taped or battery individually bagged before taking to HHW facility or a battery collection site.

Examples of use:

Nickel Cadmium: Portable tools and appliances, cellular and cordless phones, camcorders, 2-way radios.

Lithium Ion: Laptop computers, cellular phones, video cameras and portable electronic equipment.

Small Sealed Lead Acid or Gel Cell: Video cameras, security systems, weed trimmers, wheelchairs.

Nickel Metal Hydride: Video cameras, cellular phones, laptop computers.



Lead Acid

Lead Acid (Vehicle)

Take to HHW facility, or return to retailer.

By law, auto battery retailers must accept up to five automotive batteries from consumers free of charge.

Examples of use: Cars, boats, snowmobiles, golf carts, motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, and wheelchairs.

Battery handling tips

- ▶ Store batteries in a vented plastic bucket or sturdy cardboard box. Do not place an air-tight lid on the container. Gases that vent from batteries may be trapped and create a potentially dangerous situation.
- ▶ Wash your hands with soap and water after handling batteries, or use gloves.
- ▶ If storing batteries together, place non-conducting (electrical) tape over terminals or place individual batteries in plastic bags to prevent short-circuiting.
- ▶ Do not attempt to discharge a battery by short-circuiting the terminals.
- ▶ Older batteries may rust and leak after long periods of storage. If a battery appears to be dirty or have a white, film-like substance around the terminals, use caution when handling the battery, and do not touch the dirty area. Place it in a bag for recycling or disposal.

Source: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency



Hennepin County
Environmental Services
612-348-3777

www.hennepin.us key word search: a to z or facilities

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