



Fact Sheet

HOUSEHOLD BATTERY DISPOSAL

Over three billion batteries are sold annually in the United States (more than 350 million are rechargeable batteries). The average person owns about two button batteries, ten normal batteries, and throws out about eight household batteries per year.¹ To prevent the release of hazardous substances into the environment, the "Battery Act" was signed into law on May 13, 1996.²

Environmental Hazards

Batteries may contain cadmium, mercury, copper, silver, zinc, lead, manganese, nickel, and lithium, which may create a hazard when disposed of incorrectly.

Batteries may produce the following potential problems or hazards:

- Contribute to metals that may leach from landfills and contaminate the soil and water.
- Pollute surface water and ground-water supplies.
- Expose the environment to lead.
- Contain strong corrosive acids.
- May cause burns or a danger to eyes and skin.

In the past, batteries accounted for over half of the mercury, cadmium and lead found in household trash generated in the United States.¹ Since the early 1990s manufacturers started eliminating added mercury from alkaline batteries, which has significantly reduced the amount of mercury entering the landfills. However, other battery types still pose significant hazards to public health and safety and the environment and should be properly disposed of or recycled.

Most batteries can be recycled!



Battery Type and Disposal Method



Alkaline batteries come in many sizes and are commonly referred to as disposable or non-rechargeable batteries. Alkaline batteries are non-hazardous and *can be safely disposed with household garbage*.



Rechargeable batteries contain metals and other hazardous ingredients and should not be disposed of with household trash. Exchange at the time of purchase or deliver to an HHW collection site.

NOTE: Some rechargeable batteries look like alkaline batteries. However, they contain Nickel and Cadmium and should be recycled. *If in doubt, deliver the batteries to an HHW collection site.*

NOTE: Sometimes rechargeable batteries are built into a machine, tool or appliance. Do not attempt to disassemble the equipment. Bring the whole unit to an HHW collection site.



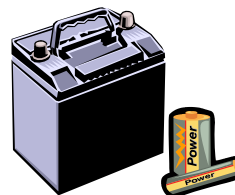
Button batteries often contain metals and other hazardous ingredients and should be returned to the manufacturer when purchasing a new battery. Many shops that replace watch and hearing aid batteries accept your batteries for recycling at no charge. You may also bring your batteries to an HHW collection site.



Lithium batteries contain lithium metal compounds and should be recycled. Exchange lithium batteries at the time of purchase or deliver to an HHW collection site.



Car/Motorcycle batteries contain lead and acid and must be recycled. Most businesses require a trade-in when you purchase a new battery, or you will be assessed a fee (core charge). Trade in your old lead-acid battery at the time of purchase (or return your old battery to the retailer for a refund). Lead-acid batteries are prohibited from being disposed of with household refuse and cannot enter the landfill. Lead-acid batteries may also be delivered to an HHW collection site.



¹Environmental, Health and Safety Online, Battery Recycling and Disposal Guide for Households (2/15/2003); <http://www.ehso.com/ehshome/batteries.php.EHSO>, Inc., Atlanta, GA.

²EPA (2002 March) Enforcement Alert, Volume 5, Number 2, The 'Battery Act', (EPA 300-N-02-002). Office of Regulatory Enforcement and Compliance (2248A), Washington, D.C.

Battery Type and Disposal Table

Battery Type	Common Name	Sizes Available	Examples of Use	Proper Disposal
Alkaline	Alkaline	AAA, AA, C, D, 6V, 9V	Flashlights, portable stereos, calculators, toys, clocks, smoke alarms, remote controls	Place in trash
Rechargeable	Nickel-Cadmium (Ni-Cd), Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH), Lithium Ion (Li-ion), and Small Sealed Lead-Acid (Pb)*	AAA, AA, C, D, 2V, 6V, 9V, 12V And Other varying sizes and odd shapes	Cellular phones, cordless phones and power tools, computer packs and laptops, camcorders, digital cameras, toys, flashlights, ATV's, wheelchairs	Exchange at time of purchase Or Bring to an HHW collection site
Button	Mercuric Oxide, Silver Oxide, Lithium, Alkaline, Zinc-Air	Sizes vary from dime size to quarter size	Watches, hearing aids, greeting cards, toys, remote controls, cameras, calculators, and other small electronic devices	Exchange at time of purchase Or Bring to an HHW collection site
Lithium	Usually has "lithium" label on the battery	3V, 6V, button size And Other odd shapes	Cameras, calculators, computer memory back-up units, tennis shoes	Exchange at time of purchase Or Bring to an HHW collection site
Car/Motorcycle	Lead-acid (Pb) Commonly sold as store brands	6V, 12V	Cars, trucks, motorcycles, boats, RVs, electric scooters	Return to store for core charge refund Or Bring to an HHW collection site

* Small Sealed Lead-acid batteries must weigh less than 2 lbs or 1kg.



Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Sites

Main Site

Open every Friday & Saturday 8 A.M. to 12 NOON

- 2440 W. Sweetwater Drive

ABOP (Antifreeze, Batteries, Oil, and Paint) Sites

Open during Landfill and Transfer Station normal operating hours

- Los Reales, Sahuarita, & Tangerine Road Landfills
- Catalina & Ryan Field Transfer Stations

Outreach Sites

Open the first Saturday of each month 8 A.M. to 12 NOON

- Eastside City Hall
7575 E. Speedway Blvd.
- Tucson Water Plant 2
1102 W. Irvington Road

This service is *free!*

For more information please call 520/888-6967 or
Visit our web site at <http://www.tucsonaz.gov/hhw>