

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.



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.

For More Information, Contact Your County Extension Agent or SHWEC

www.uwex.edu/shwec

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