

HOUSEHOLD BATTERY DISPOSAL GUIDE

Batteries are a useful tool for many different types of electronics, but when those helpful batteries have worn out it is time to dispose of them properly. For household use, batteries come in different shapes and sizes including A, AA, AAA, C, D, 6V, 9V, coin, or button shaped and battery packs (a series of battery cells connected together and encased in plastic). Batteries also come in many types that have different characteristics and are used for different kinds of electronics. Most common types of household batteries are:



Alkaline are the most commonly used and recognized batteries.

Carbon Zinc are often considered professional grade and labeled: General Purpose, Heavy Duty, or Classic.

Sealed Lead-Acid are hazardous because of the lead.

Nickel Cadmium are often labeled: Ni-Cd.

Nickel Metal Hydride are often labeled: NiMH.

Mercuric Oxide are hazardous because of the mercury. They are typically button shaped with a cross in the center.

Silver Oxide are hazardous because of the silver. They are typically button shaped with no markings.

Zinc Air are usually button size and can be identified by a pin hole in the button.

Lithium Ion are often labeled Li-Ion. They are nonhazardous, rechargeable and recyclable.

Type	Common Uses	Hazardous	Recyclable	Rechargeable	Disposal Method
Alkaline	Flashlights, toys, & Clocks	NO	NO	NO	TRASH
Carbon Zinc	Remote Controls & Portable Electronics	NO	NO	NO	TRASH
Sealed Lead-Acid	Motorized Equipment & Vehicles	YES	YES	YES	RETAILER or TRANSFER SITE
Nickel Cadmium	Cordless Tools & Cell Phones	YES	YES	YES	HHW
Nickel Metal Hydride	Cordless Tools & Notebook PCs	NO	YES	YES	HHW
Mercuric Oxide	Hearing Aids & Detectors	YES	YES	NO	HHW
Silver Oxide	Calculators & Watches	YES	YES	NO	HHW
Zinc Air	Hearing Aids	NO	NO	NO	TRASH
Lithium-Ion	Calculators, Watches & Cameras	NO	YES	YES	HHW

Storing Your Batteries

- Always store batteries in a vented, nonmetal container.
- Do not place an airtight lid on the container because gases that normally vent from batteries may be trapped, creating a potentially dangerous situation.
- Inspect battery containers regularly to ensure they are not leaking or broken.
- Label battery storage containers with the words, "Batteries for Recycling" or "Hazardous Waste Batteries."

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