

Questions and Answers about the Safe Disposal of Batteries

Why should we be concerned about battery disposal?

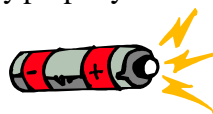
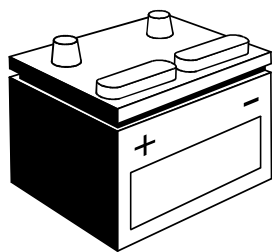
Batteries may contain toxic metals such as mercury and cadmium. If batteries which contain these metals end up in incinerators, the metals are released in to the air and from there can contaminate lakes and drinking

water. If the batteries end up in landfills, the heavy metals can leach out in to groundwater.

Long term exposure to cadmium can cause liver and lung disease. Mercury can cause damage to the human brain, spinal system, kidneys and liver and has been linked to developmental and learning disabilities. Consumers can help protect themselves and the environment by properly

disposing of all types of batteries (see chart).

Since 1994, most types of alkaline batteries no longer contain mercury, and can be disposed of in the trash.



What can you do?

- **Buy products that don't require batteries**, such as kinetic watches and solar powered calculators.
- **Find out when your town has a collection for household hazardous waste** or encourage your town officials to schedule one.
- **Return car batteries** for recycling. Most service stations will accept car batteries, especially if you're buying a new one from them.
- **The Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation (RBRC)** can help you recycle your rechargeable batteries, commonly found in cordless power tools, cellular and cordless phones, laptop computers, camcorders, digital cameras, and remote control toys. RBRC recycles the following battery chemistries: Nickel Cadmium (Ni-Cd), Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH), Lithium Ion (Li-ion) and Small Sealed Lead* (Pb). Call (800) 8-BATTERY or go to www.rbrc.org for collection locations. Most Radio Shacks serve as a collection point.

What's the difference between batteries?

Type of Battery:	Common Uses:	Recycling/Disposal:
Button	Hearing aides, watches, cameras, calculators, paging devices	Return to point of purchase (save receipt) or save for recycling
Alkaline	9-volt, D, C, AA, AAA	Dispose of in trash.
Rechargeable	Appliances, power tools, camcorders, radios, cellular phones	Recharge, then recycle or save for town hazardous waste collection days.
Lithium	AA, C, 9-volt, found in computers and cameras.	Save for town hazardous waste collection days.



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