Household Battery Disposal Options

Follow the safety instructions on the front page to lower the risk of fire.

Banned From Trash, Recycling Required



Lead Acid Vehicle Batteries

12V, 6V

Uses: cars, trucks, boats, motorcycles, other vehicles



Lithium-Ion Batteries

(!) *When contained in landfill-banned electronics*

Uses: laptops, cellphones, other portable electronics with screens

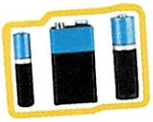
Okay For Trash



Alkaline

(Manganese) (single-use)
AAA, AA, C, D, 6V, 9V

Uses: flashlights, portable electronics, smoke alarms



Carbon Zinc *(single-use)*

AAA, AA, C, D, 6V, 9V

Uses: toys, smoke alarms, remote controls, garage door openers



Silver Oxide *(single-use)*

Uses: watches, hearing aids, toys, greeting cards, remote controls

Drop-off Site Recycling, Recommended



Lithium / Lithium-Ion

(Li / Li-ion)
3V, 6V, 9V, Button, AAA, AA, C, D

Uses: power tools, power banks, toys, vacuums, lawn equipment, e-bikes



Nickel-Cadmium

(Ni-Cd) (rechargeable)
AAA, AA, C, D, 6V, 9V

Uses: flashlights, toys, power tools, computer packs, R/C hobby vehicles



Nickel-Metal Hydride

(Ni-HM) (rechargeable)
AAA, AA, C, D, 6V, 9V

Uses: same as nickel-cadmium (above)



Sealed Lead Acid

(Pb) (rechargeable)
2V, 6V, 12V

Uses: cameras, power tools, clocks, wheelchairs, ATVs, metal detectors



Button Or Coin Batteries

(mostly single use, many now contain lithium)

Uses: watches, hearing aids, small portable electronics, toys, greeting cards, remote controls

Household Battery Recycling Guide

This guide explains how to safely store and dispose of common household batteries. The Department of Natural Resources recommends recycling many battery types by taking them to a drop-off site. *Batteries should never go in recycling bins.*



Prepare & Store Batteries for Recycling

Batteries can spark and start a fire if damaged, or if the terminals touch metal or each other. Many batteries, especially lithium ion, pose a fire risk due to their chemistries and ability to hold a charge.

The following steps can lower risk of fire:

- Put each battery in an individual, clear plastic bag, or tape each battery's terminals with clear packing tape.
- Keep battery labels visible.
- Store batteries in a non-metal container.
- Store swollen or damaged batteries in sand or kitty litter.
- Take stored batteries to a drop-off location frequently.

Battery Recycling Locations

For lead-acid vehicle batteries:

- Bring to any Wisconsin retailer that sells these batteries for recycling.
- This service is free to customers who buy a new battery. Retailers may charge a fee if customers bring in a used battery without buying a new one.

For all other types of batteries:

- *batterynetwork.org*
- *WisconsinRecyclingDirectory.com*
- Contact your local recycling program (*some sites may charge a fee or accept only certain battery types.*)

For a full list of electronics banned from the trash and to find collection sites or mail-back programs,

visit our webpage: **dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Ecycle**

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, *Bureau of Waste and Materials Management*
P.O. Box 7921 | Madison, WI 53707-7921 • DNRBatteries@wisconsin.gov

This publication is available in alternative format (large print, Braille, etc.) upon request. Please call 608-266-2111 for more information.
Note: If you need technical assistance or more information, call the Accessibility Coordinator at 608-267-7490 / TTY Access via relay – 711.

PUB-WA-1621 2026