

Batteries



There are two basic types of batteries in use:

1. **Single-use or disposable ones:**

The single-use batteries found in alarm clocks, remote controls and other consumer devices are designed to be used for as long as the cell generates electricity.

2. **Rechargeable:**

Rechargeable batteries can be charged many times before they are replaced. They are commonly found in cordless phones and smartphones, digital cameras, power tools and similar consumer devices that drain energy quickly.

1. Single-Use Batteries:

single-use batteries are now made of common metals deemed non-hazardous by the federal government and can be disposed of in your regular trash in all states except California, where it is illegal to throw away all types of batteries. Prior to 1996, single-use batteries contained mercury and were treated as hazardous waste.

One exception is a button cell battery found in a watch, which is hazardous and should be disposed of like a rechargeable battery.

There is a fee associated with recycling them in most cases.

General steps for disposing of Single-Use Batteries :

- ❖ Place a piece of non-conductive clear tape over the ends to prevent any current transfer. You can also bag each battery individually instead of taping the ends.
- ❖ Store the batteries in a plastic or cardboard container that doesn't conduct electricity in case there is a spark
- ❖ Call your local solid waste district to find out if your community has a collection program or upcoming event.
- ❖ Search the area for recycling centers that accept single-use batteries using Earth911's Recycling Search.
- ❖ Find a mail-in recycling program that accepts batteries. Most of these programs will sell you a container to store used batteries that can be mailed when filled. Battery Solutions and Call2Recycle both offer options for recycling alkaline batteries in the mail.

If you are mailing your batteries to a recycling facility, check for any additional safety steps required for shipping.

2. Rechargeable Batteries:

Rechargeable batteries are also common in the home. You'll find them in cell phones, digital cameras, power tools, laptops and other more powerful electronics in your home.

Rechargeable batteries of any kind should not be placed in your trash can (or dumpster). It is illegal in some states to do so because rechargeable batteries contain heavy metals that can be hazardous to the environment.

There are many different kinds of rechargeable batteries:

- **Nickel metal hydride and nickel cadmium batteries** are found in electronics such as cordless power tools, digital cameras, two-way radios and cordless phones.

- **Lithium-ion batteries** are found in most portable devices such as cellphones and laptops.
- **Small sealed lead acid batteries** are less common in homes and are found in emergency devices, emergency exit signs, security systems, mobility scooters and other special-use items.

General steps for disposing of Rechargeable Batteries :

- Remove batteries from their electronics. Dead laptops must be recycled separately from dead laptop batteries. This is not required for small electronics like cell phones or iPods, which can be accepted by most battery recyclers
- Cover the terminals with non-conductive tape clear tape.
- The Home Depot Store has partnered with Call2Recycle, a nonprofit battery recycling program. Rechargeable batteries can be dropped off in Call2Recycle bins at the store. Any rechargeable battery that weighs up to 11 pounds and is under 300 watt hours is accepted. **There is no charge for recycling.**
- Many local solid waste districts host collection events for residents to drop off batteries.
- Some battery manufacturers and recycling facilities have mail-in programs. Before mailing batteries, be sure to follow postal shipping precautions.
- Most auto care retailers accept car batteries for recycling.

If you are mailing your batteries to a recycling facility, check for any additional safety steps required for shipping.



