FLORIDA HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE TO BATTERY RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL

Confused about all the types and sizes of batteries? The following guidelines explain how to properly dispose of various batteries commonly used around the home. Look on the battery's label or packaging to identify what it is made of, then use this guide to find the best way to recycle or dispose of it.

WHERE CAN YOU RECYCLE BATTERIES?

- Many stores that sell batteries, phones or electronics will take used batteries back for recycling. Visit www.call2recycle.org to find a retailer near you that will accept them.
- In Florida, homeowners can take batteries to their county Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program for proper management. Learn about your county's program and other items they will accept such as fluorescent lamps, paint, pesticides, cleansers and other hazardous household items by visiting www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/hazardous/pages/household.htm.
- Visit www.Earth911.org or call 1-800-CLEANUP to learn about local battery recycling opportunities. All you need is your zip code.

BATTERY TYPES AND DISPOSAL

Non Recyclable Batteries

Alkaline batteries

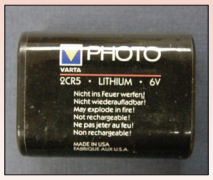
Often called 'flashlight batteries,' alkaline batteries are usually single use batteries in 9 volt, C, D, AA and AAA. Some alkaline batteries are rechargeable.

The added hazardous component of alkaline batteries, mercury was eliminated in the 1990s. Since then, waste characterization studies have shown that nearly all of the old mercury alkaline batteries have already been disposed of. Nearly all of the alkaline batteries in use in Florida today have no added hazardous components. Under state law and regulations, alkaline batteries can be disposed of in the trash.

Large lantern batteries are also alkaline batteries.

Recycling is not commonly cost effective for alkaline batteries at this time. Although some parts of the country have recycling opportunities available, in Florida alkaline batteries have to be transported a long distance prior to recycling. Because of transportation costs, the Department does not know of any company providing free alkaline battery recycling in Florida.

Lithium batteries (Non-rechargeable)



Battery label distinguishes between Lithium and Lithium Ion. Completely discharge the battery and securely tape the terminals before disposing in the trash.

Recyclable Batteries

Lithium Ion batteries (LI-ion) (rechargeable)

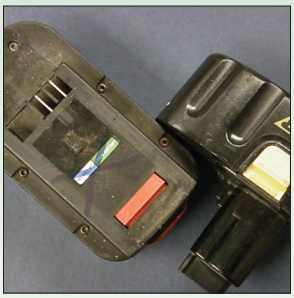
Uses: laptops, other small electronics.

Small Sealed Lead Acid (SSLA) batteries

Uses: smaller equipment and backup power supplies. Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation (RBRC), which provides the required recycling for most battery manufacturers, accepts SSLA batteries weighing up to 11 pounds.

Wet Cell Lead Acid batteries

Uses: autos, boats, trucks. Retailers are required to take back for recycling as trade-ins for new batteries.



Portable power tool batteries

Uses: any brand of portable, cordless power tool.

Old-style cell phone batteries

Cell phones should also be recycled. Take to HHW or check for other recycling opportunities at local retailers.

Button batteries

Uses: hearing aids, watches, calculators.

Nickel-Cadmium batteries (NiCd)

Uses: portable electronics and toys.

Nickel Metal Hydride batteries (NiMH)

Uses: consumer electronics.

Battery Pack

These batteries are packaged together with one single connector. Uses: phones, small equipment.

For more information, please contact the Florida Department of Environmental Protection at (850)245-8705 or visit www.dep.state.fl.us.

These photos represent some of the types of batteries that consumers use and are not a complete list of available battery types or manufacturers. Inclusion or absence from the examples does not imply prejudice or impropriety. The DEP does not endorse specific equipment or companies.