

Battery Disposal

We use many different kinds of batteries in our workplace. Listed below are the common types of batteries used and proper disposal methods for each. If you have unwanted batteries not listed here, please contact Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) at 4-3921 for disposal instructions.

Alkaline batteries are commonly referred to as disposable or non-rechargeable batteries. They are often used in toys, flashlights, and some electronic equipment. Alkaline batteries can be disposed in the trash.

Rechargeables typically include Nickel-Cadmium (NiCad) or Lead-acid batteries. Both contain regulated levels of metals, and must either be exchanged at the time of purchase (preferred method) or tagged for collection by EHS.

NOTE: Sometimes rechargeable batteries are built into a machine, tool or appliance, such as in rechargeable flashlights. When these items no longer work or hold a charge, the complete unit must be handled as hazardous waste. Do not attempt to disassemble the equipment; tag the whole unit for collection by EHS.

Button batteries are found in watches, calculators, hearing aids, and other small electronic devices. They often contain mercury, silver, or lithium, and should be returned to the manufacturer when purchasing a new battery. If this is not possible, they must be tagged for collection by EHS.

Car/Motorcycle batteries are usually of the Lead-acid type. Most businesses require a trade-in when you purchase a new battery or else you will be assessed a fee. Trading in your old lead acid battery at the time of purchase is the best way to handle an old lead-acid battery. Several businesses in Omaha will accept these batteries without assessing a disposal fee.

Recycling is the best option from both an economic and environmental standpoint for most batteries. Check with companies to make sure that they will take back old batteries when new ones are bought. If batteries cannot be recycled (with the exception of alkaline batteries), make sure that they are tagged for collection by EHS.