



ENVIRONMENTAL  
HEALTH & SAFETY

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## Hazardous Material Fact Sheet

### Battery Disposal

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Batteries are generally regulated because of high amounts of heavy metals. Listed below are the proper management methods for different types of batteries. If you have questions or have batteries that are not included below, please contact Environmental Health & Safety ([EHS](#)) at (402) 554-3596 for disposal instructions.

Please note that **only** UNO generated battery waste can be recycled through UNO. It is prohibited to recycle your batteries from home or personal use.

- **Alkaline, carbon-zinc (heavy duty), and zinc-air batteries**  
These are the typical non-rechargeable batteries that most people use. They are not EPA regulated and should be placed in regular trash.
- **Button batteries**  
These batteries are found in watches, calculators, hearing aids, etc. Button batteries often contain mercury, silver or lithium, and should be collected. Place batteries in a closed container labeled “Used Batteries,” and when full, complete a chemical collection tag and contact EHS for proper disposal or recycling. Submit pick-ups on-line: [Chemical Waste Pick-up Request](#).
- **Lead-acid batteries**  
This includes most car and motorcycle batteries. These batteries contain regulated amounts of lead and should be recycled. Businesses will often buy back old batteries when a new one is purchased. Lead-acid batteries that cannot be returned for credit should be labeled “Used Batteries” and a chemical collection tag completed. Contact EHS for pick- up.
- **Rechargeable batteries (containing Lead-Acid, Lithium Ion, NiMH or Nickel-Cadmium)**  
These are the most common type of rechargeable battery and they can be found in cellular phones and various equipment. **Note: Sometimes rechargeable batteries are built-in to a machine or tool (i.e., rechargeable flashlight). When these items will no longer work or stay charged, the whole thing must be properly recycled.** Rechargeable batteries contain regulated amounts of heavy metals and must be recycled or handled as Universal Waste. Tape or cover the terminals of these batteries, place them in a closed container labeled “Used Batteries,” and when full, complete a chemical collection tag and contact EHS for proper disposal or recycling. Submit pick-ups on-line: [Chemical Waste Pick-up Request](#).

Recycling is the best option from both an economic and environmental standpoint. Check with companies to see if they will take back old batteries when new ones are bought. If batteries cannot be returned, make sure they are collected and given to EHS for proper recycling.

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Please call 402.554.3596 or  
email [uno.ehs@nebraska.edu](mailto:uno.ehs@nebraska.edu) with any questions