

Taking Charge: An at-home guide to handling used batteries

In toys, tools, emergency devices, mobility devices, laptops, phones, monitoring devices — batteries power many of our staple electronics. This guide will help you learn how to properly handle these batteries when they are spent to protect your household and the environment.

Battery Types

Proper disposal methods depend on a battery's chemistry. Batteries can be single use or reusable. Some batteries, such as single-use alkaline batteries, are easy to remove and dispose of. Other batteries, such as rechargeable lithium-ion, can be more difficult to remove and even dangerous if not handled properly. For guidance on battery types and disposal methods, visit the the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) website: [epa.gov/recycle/used-household-batteries](https://www.epa.gov/recycle/used-household-batteries).

SINGLE-USE LITHIUM



LITHIUM-ION



NICKEL-METAL HYDRIDE



Used Battery Do's and Don'ts



DO take your batteries to a battery collection/recycling site or a household hazardous waste site.

DO contact your local waste municipality to arrange a pickup, if your battery is visibly damaged (bulging, leaking, corroding, etc.). Put a damaged battery into a coffee can, wrap it in a nonreactive material such as plastic wrap, and put the battery in a remote location of your yard while waiting for battery pickup.

DO tape the terminals of each battery with electrical tape (or store them in individual plastic bags). Taped or wrapped batteries can then go into a non-metal (plastic or rubber) container.

DO keep used batteries in room temperature locations, on stable shelving, until you can take them to a proper disposal location.

DON'T throw batteries into the trash or recycling bin, unless they are alkaline batteries. When batteries become damaged (particularly lithium-ion batteries), they can cause fires, which can be dangerous for our homes, trash collection services, landfill operators, and recycling locations.

DON'T store used batteries together in a single bin. This can result in short circuits, which can lead to fires

DON'T store batteries in extreme temperatures. This can include non-air-conditioned spaces during the summer or freezing locations during the winter. Extreme temperatures can cause chemical reactions that may lead to fires.



What if I can't remove the battery from the electronic device?
Send the entire device off to an e-waste collector or recycler to have them properly remove and handle the battery. See resources on next page >

What do I do with my larger batteries, such as car batteries?

Vehicle lead-acid batteries can be dropped off at battery recycling locations.¹ If you have a hybrid or electric vehicle, contact your dealership, automotive repair shop, or manufacturer for disposal information and assistance. For energy storage, contact the battery installer for information.

¹ See Arizona Revised Statutes Title 44 Part 1323 for requirements related to returning used lead-acid batteries to sellers: [azleg.gov/viewdocument/?docName=https://www.azleg.gov/ars/44/01323.htm](https://www.azleg.gov/viewdocument/?docName=https://www.azleg.gov/ars/44/01323.htm)



When in doubt — DO NOT throw batteries out in the trash or recycling

Want more information? Contact the Pollution Prevention Program at p2@azdeq.gov or our hazardous waste compliance group at HazardousWasteICU@azdeq.gov.

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality has an e-waste recycling toolkit at azdeq.gov/e-Waste that includes information on how to plan an e-waste collection event, find e-waste recyclers, and more.

Battery Recycling Location Searches:

- Earth911 search.earth911.com
- Call2Recycle call2recycle.org/locator
- Household Hazardous Waste azdeq.gov/recycling-your-community

To find local household hazardous waste programs that accept electronics, you can also type (*your city/town name*) in your preferred online search engine.

For translations or other communications aids, please email the Title VI Coordinator, Leonard Drago, at Drago.Leonard@azdeq.gov or call 602-771-2288.

Para traducciones u otras ayudas de comunicación, envíe un correo electrónico al Coordinador del Título VI, Leonard Drago, a Drago.Leonard@azdeq.gov o llame al 602-771-2288.