

# Battery Recycling



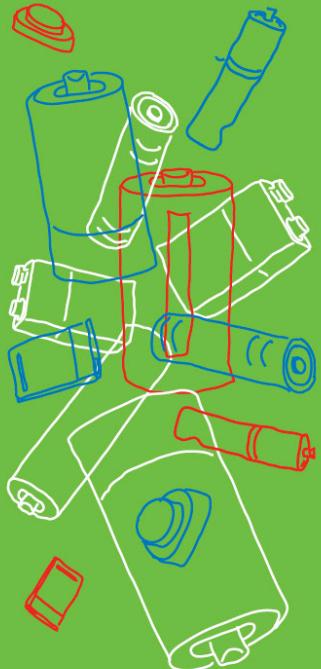
NATIONAL  
RECYCLING WEEK  
**PLANET ARK**

## Factsheet

Take a quick look around your home and you'd be surprised to see that you use batteries in most common household items.

Primary (single-use) batteries are typically found in toys, watches/clocks, smoke alarms, audiovisual equipment and remote controls. Secondary (rechargeable) batteries are most commonly found in cordless drills, mobile phones, laptops and PCs, shavers and cameras.

Australians use thousands of tonnes of batteries every year, most of which end up in landfill where the metals can leak and contaminate soil and groundwater.



### How to reduce your battery waste

Try to minimize battery usage by connecting appliances to the mains power where possible. Buying rechargeable batteries is an important way to reduce battery waste. Each battery can be recharged up to 1000 times, saving you money and reducing pollution from discarded batteries.

### Why recycle batteries?

Household batteries contain toxic metals such as cadmium, mercury and lead, which can be harmful to the environment when disposed of to landfill. Used rechargeable batteries are classified as a hazardous waste under the *Hazardous Waste Act 1989*. This means that they should not be disposed of with general household waste.

How do you recycle computers, corks, cartridges and cans?

For information on council services and drop-off locations in your area... visit



RecyclingNearYou  
.com.au

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or call



RECYCLING HOTLINE  
1300 733 712

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### Battery collections

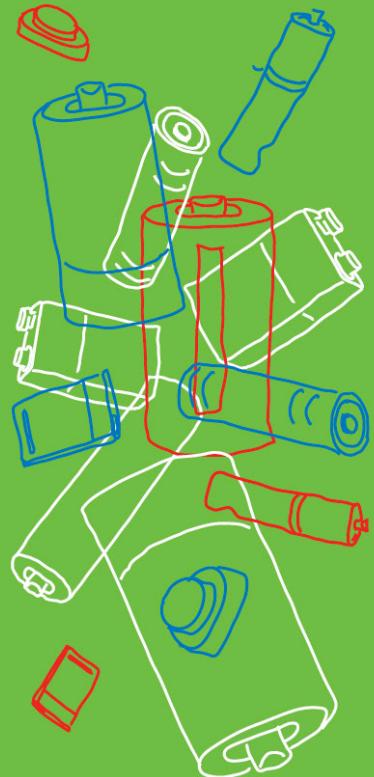
Most councils offer regular collections and/or provide drop-off locations for hazardous waste.

One national collection program for batteries is run by Cleanaway. They collect primary and secondary batteries in flat-packed boxes that can be sent back for recycling.

[Aldi supermarkets offer a free battery recycling service at all their Australian stores](#). Any brand of AA, AAA, C, D and 9V batteries (both rechargeable and non-rechargeable) are accepted - simply drop your used batteries into the dedicated bins in store.

There are a number of other local programs for recycling batteries. Search <http://www.RecyclingNearYou.com.au> to find collection points in your local area.

Drop off the battery when it is completely discharged – if you are not sure, cover the poles of the battery with a piece of sticky tape. For lead-acid or car batteries, see our Car Battery (Lead-Acid Battery) Factsheet.



## What happens to the batteries?

After batteries are collected, they sorted into their types and components and sent to licensed recycling facilities in Australia or overseas for processing.

Recycling battery components is a complex and expensive process due to the chemistry involved.

Secondary batteries are commonly Nickel Cadmium, Nickel Metal Hydride or Lithium Ion. Plastics and metals, such as ferro-nickel, can be recovered and recycled. Cadmium, for example, is used to manufacture new batteries.

## More information

Sustainability Victoria (<http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au>)  
Cleanaway (<http://www.cleanaway.com.au>)  
SITA Environmental Solutions (<http://www.sita.com.au>)  
Battery World (<http://www.batteryworld.com.au>)  
Aldi Battery Recycling (<http://aldi.com.au/au/html/23834.htm>)

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