



# Safe Recycling and Disposal of Household Batteries

Not all batteries are the same! Here's how to identify and safely get rid of your unwanted batteries:



**Battery and electronics recycling programs:** Some communities offer battery and electronics recycling programs, often in public places like libraries or government offices. Check with your solid waste district or visit the Recycling Facility Locator (click or scan the QR-Code), or visit [epa.ohio.gov/recycling-facility-locator](http://epa.ohio.gov/recycling-facility-locator) to find one near you.



**Retailer take back programs:** Some stores may have programs in place to recycle batteries. Check with your local home improvement or big box stores, or visit [call2recycle.org](http://call2recycle.org).



**Household hazardous waste:** Your community may host household hazardous waste and electronics collections at special events or at a permanent location. Check with your local collection agency to see what types of batteries are accepted.



**Household trash:** The only types of batteries that can be thrown away safely in the trash are single-use alkaline and zinc-carbon batteries. No other batteries should ever be placed in household trash.



## DO NOT PLACE ANY KIND OF BATTERY IN CURBSIDE BINS OR DROP OFF DUMPSTERS MEANT FOR GENERAL RECYCLING!

Recycling facilities are not designed to accept and sort batteries, so they will contaminate other recyclables. Lithium-ion batteries are a fire hazard if they are damaged or crushed during transportation or sorting.

### Follow these simple steps













1. Figure out what type of battery it is by checking the label or refer to the chart on the back.
2. Tape battery ends or place each in its own plastic bag to prevent any sparking.
3. Pick an option from the chart on the back based on what type of battery it is and what's available in your area.
4. Drop off your batteries!



There was a 19% increase in fires at waste, paper and plastic recovery facilities in 2022, largely due to incorrectly disposed batteries.



*Don't forget, some batteries are built into electronic devices and cannot be removed. These batteries still pose the same risks!*

Use Type	Type of Battery Chemistry	Use and Description	Disposal Tips	Options
Single Use	<b>Alkaline and zinc-carbon</b> 	<p>These common everyday batteries can be used in products such as smoke detectors, flashlights, TV remote controls, remote-control products, children's toys, etc.</p> <p>Common examples: 9 Volt, AA, AAA, C, D and some button cells.</p>	<p>Can be safely disposed of in household trash. Should be recycled in communities where collection is available. Do not place in curbside recycling or single stream recycling drop offs.</p>	
	<b>Button-cell or coin</b> 	<p>Typically found in watches, hearing aids, car keyless remotes, etc. Most contain lithium, and may contain silver, cadmium, or mercury.</p>	<p>Tape ends or place each in its own separate plastic bag to prevent sparking.</p> <p><b>Do not place in trash or recycling curbside containers or dumpsters as they pose a fire risk.</b></p>	
	<b>Lithium single use</b> 	<p>Commonly used in products like cameras, remote controls, handheld games, and smoke detectors.</p> <p>May come in same sizes as alkaline batteries but also specialized shapes for specific equipment.</p>	<p>Can be recycled at participating retailers, local household hazardous waste collection programs, or special battery recycling programs.</p>	
Rechargeable	<b>Nickel Cadmium or Nickel-Metal Hydride</b> 	<p>Commonly found in cordless power tools, cameras, etc.</p>	<p><b>Removable batteries:</b> Remove and tape terminals or place each in plastic bag. Can be disposed at participating retailers, local household hazardous waste collection programs, or special battery recycling programs.</p>	
	<b>Lithium-ion</b> 	<p>Commonly found in smartphones, laptops, vaping devices, appliances, etc.</p>	<p><b>Non-removable batteries contained in electronic devices:</b> Some devices can be taken to electronics recyclers, retailers that provide electronics takeback services, or local electronics or household hazardous waste collection programs.</p>	
	<b>Small sealed lead acid</b> 	<p>Commonly found in mobility scooters, emergency lighting, hospital equipment, and backup power devices.</p>	<p><b>Do not place in trash or single stream recycling curbside containers or dumpsters as they pose a fire risk.</b></p>	

**In Ohio, retailers and wholesalers of lead-acid automotive batteries are required to take your old battery for recycling when you buy a new one.**