

BATTERIES



Batteries are considered as hazardous wastes under the category of universal wastes in California because of the materials they are made from. Acids, lead, nickel, lithium and mercury to name a few are dangerous and toxic, and will leach into the environment when batteries are not disposed of properly. This not only contaminates the soil and water systems, but have the potential to affect our health and well-being through accumulation in wildlife and the food we eat.

TYPES OF BATTERIES

AAA, AA, C, D, button cell, 9-volt, rechargeable batteries, single batteries, car batteries, motorcycle batteries, scooter batteries

**BATTERIES DO NOT GO IN
THE TRASH!**

WHERE TO RECYCLE BATTERIES

Libraries:

14 county libraries in San Diego accept standard alkaline batteries, drop them off in the drop-off bin inside.

O'Reilly's Auto Parts Store:

Most O'Reilly's recycle household batteries as well as lead acid automotive batteries. Remember to call before you go to make sure your local O'Reilly's are accepting batteries for recycling.

Electronic Stores:

Many electronic stores in San Diego can take batteries for recycling. Visit WasteFreeSD.org to find a store near you.

Household Hazardous Waste Facilities:

Hazardous waste facilities accept all types of batteries. Always bring damaged batteries to HHW facilities. Visit WasteFreeSD.org to find out which facility you can go to.

The Big Green Box:

An easy and convenient 3-step process to dispose of all types of batteries (excluding automotive batteries) – purchase a box, fill the box, ship the box. The company Retrieiv Technologies then uses a diverse array of technologies to ensure each battery component is recovered in the most environmentally sound way possible.

Battery Solutions:

Similar to The Big Green Box – purchase a box, fill the box, ship the box. They offer different container sizes to suit the needs of not only regular households but industries as well.

BATTERY STORAGE

For household batteries, try to store them in its original packaging so they are out of contact with other batteries. Make sure the batteries are stored with all the positive ends facing the same direction. Avoid storing batteries with metal objects because contact can cause batteries to short circuit and lead to leakage.

Do not ever mix damaged batteries with other batteries. This again could result in short circuiting and cause fires or worse explosions. If batteries are leaking, handle them with care by wearing gloves, then place them in a clear plastic bag to be transported to your local hazardous waste collection facility. If you wanted an extra step to guarantee safety, you could place the bag in non-flammable material such as sand or kitty litter.