



**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
AND SAFETY**

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL FACT SHEET
Battery Disposal

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates some batteries because of high amounts of heavy metals. Listed below are the proper management methods for different types of batteries. Please contact EHS at (402) 559-6356 if you have any questions.

Please do not bring batteries from home.

- **Alkaline, carbon-zinc (heavy duty), and zinc-air batteries**
These are the typical non-rechargeable batteries that most people use. Dispose of these non-EPA regulated batteries through the UNMC Alkaline Battery Recycling Program. The online process for recycling your alkaline batteries is [Live Green Nebraska - Battery Recycling](#). When you have a full container of used alkaline batteries, request a pick-up at [Battery Pick-up Request](#).
- **Button batteries**
Collect all watch, calculator, hearing aid, etc. button batteries, which 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 online: [Chemical Waste Pick-up Request](#).
- **Lead-acid batteries**
Lead-acid batteries include 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. Return lead-acid batteries for credit when possible. Label all other batteries, “Used Batteries,” complete a chemical collection tag, and contact EHS for proper disposal or recycling. Submit pick-ups online: [Chemical Waste Pick-up Request](#).
- **Rechargeable batteries (containing Lithium-Ion or Nickel-Cadmium)**
These are the most common type of rechargeable batteries often found in cellular phones, equipment, and toys, etc.. *Note: Sometimes, rechargeable batteries are built into a machine, tool, or toy (i.e., rechargeable flashlight). When these items no longer work or stay charged, recycle the whole item.* 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 online: [Chemical Waste Pick-up Request](#).
- **Shipping Lithium batteries:**
In the United States, lithium batteries are subject to the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Regulations and regulated as dangerous goods. When you ship lithium batteries, including those contained in or packed with devices and equipment, you must meet shipping requirements and declare package contents to postal carriers, couriers, or transport companies. Please review the documents; [Lithium Battery Transportation Plan](#) and [Lithium Battery Shipment Review Application](#) for additional information.

Recycling is the best option from both an economic and environmental standpoint—exchange batteries when buying new whenever possible. Contact EHS for proper disposal of all batteries.

Updated 12/2021

Please call 402.559.6356 or
email unmcehs@unmc.edu with any questions