

Dry-Cell Battery Disposal & Recycling As Easy as “1-2-3”

In 2010, revised U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations about the management of dry-cell batteries throughout the United States went into effect. Because dry-cell batteries can short circuit and catch fire while being transported, the DOT now requires enclosing each hazardous dry-cell battery in a plastic bag to cover its terminals prior to transport.

Figuring out how to manage batteries under these regulations is as easy as “1-2-3.” **One (1)**, throw alkaline (non-hazardous and use-once) dry-cell batteries into the trash; **two (2)**, recycle rechargeable batteries using drop-off locations; and **three (3)**, take all other types of batteries to a household hazardous waste disposal program where they will be properly bagged and managed as hazardous waste. Additional details about proper battery management can found below.

<p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Alkaline Batteries (non-hazardous and use-once) Throw in the Garbage</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Rechargeable Batteries (hazardous and multi-use) Recycle with AHSWD</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Other Batteries (hazardous and use-once) Take to Household Hazardous Waste Program</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> 
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See page 2 for a detailed description of the “1-2-3s” of dry-cell battery management.

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1. Alkaline Batteries - Use-once alkaline batteries such as AAA, AA, C, D and 9-volt batteries produced by manufacturers like Energizer and Duracell as well as less common and/or generic manufacturers now fall below Federal and state hazardous waste standards and can and should be thrown out in the ordinary garbage. These non-hazardous batteries do not need to be individually bagged prior to throwing into the garbage. It is that easy! and accounts for the majority of batteries discarded.

2. Rechargeable Batteries - The Athens - Hocking Solid Waste District (AHSWD) operates a free rechargeable battery recycling program. AHSWD has set up retailers and public agencies as rechargeable battery drop-off locations at no cost to the participant. Current locations,

Athens County:

Athens Library - 30 Home St Athens, Ohio 45701
Nelsonville Library - 95 W. Washington St Nelsonville, Ohio 45764
Wells Library - 5200 Washington Rd Albany, Ohio 45710
The Plains Library - 14 South Plains Rd, The Plains, Ohio 45780
Coolville Library - 26401 Main St Coolville, Ohio 45723

Hocking County:

Hocking County Health Department - 350 St Route 664 N Logan, Ohio 43138
Wal-Mart - 12910 St Route 664 S Logan, Ohio 43138
Savings Hardware - 95 East Main St Logan, Ohio 43138
Laurelville Library - 16240 Maple St Laurelville, Ohio 43135

These locations are provided with a drop-off box with small plastic bags so the batteries can be individually bagged in accordance with the new DOT regulations. The AHSWD pays all the costs associated with providing drop-off boxes, including transportation and recycling.

Batteries covered under the AHSWD program include:

- Nickel Cadmium (Ni-Cd)
- Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH)
- Lithium Ion (Li-ion)
- Nickel Zinc (Ni-Zn)
- Small Sealed Lead - less than 11 lbs (Pb)



Rechargeable batteries are found in cordless power tools, cellular and cordless phones, laptop computers, digital cameras, two-way radios, camcorders, and remote control toys. Rechargeable batteries sometimes look like regular alkaline batteries. The label on the battery will indicate if it is rechargeable. Note that cell phones can also be collected through the program.

3. Other Batteries - Most button cell batteries still contain mercury and should be taken to a household hazardous waste program for proper management. Lead-acid car and boat batteries (over 11 lbs) should also be taken to a household hazardous waste program. Information about AHSWD household hazardous waste programs can be found at the AHSWD website at <http://ahswd.org/>.