

Battery Disposal Quick Reference Guide

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Alkaline batteries are the only batteries that can be disposed of in the regular trash. Purdue University does not collect or recycle alkaline batteries. Contact EHS at 765-494-0121 with any questions about identifying or disposing of batteries.

Batteries that must be submitted to REM for disposal include:

- Nickel Cadmium (Ni-Cad)
- Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH)
- Lithium ion (Li-ion)
- Lithium Polymer(Li-Po)
- Sealed Lead-Acid Batteries
- Batteries containing heavy metals (Lead, Cadmium, Mercury, etc.)
- Any rechargeable battery

Examples of Batteries that must be collected as Universal Waste

Nickel Metal Hydride (NiMH)



Nickel Cadmium (Ni-Cd)



Lithium-Ion (Li-Ion)

- Frequently found in electronics.
- Submit as hazardous waste if the battery has expanded.
- Regulated if shipping alone or with equipment through UPS, FedEx etc.



Lithium Polymer or Lithium metal (Li, Li-Po)



Alkaline Batteries containing Lead or other regulated metals

- Look for the “Do not trash” symbol or with “Pb” written underneath.



Lead Acid

- Can be sealed or unsealed/refillable.
- Frequently found in cars and other vehicles/equipment.
- May be in Uninterruptible Power Sources (UPS).



Alkaline Batteries

- Can be thrown in the trash.
- Labeling can say that the battery contain 0% regulated metals.
- Some alkaline batteries may show the “Do not trash” symbol for the EU. Unless the alkaline battery has writing other than EU by the do not trash symbol, it can be disposed of in the trash in the US.

