



**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH  
AND SAFETY**

---

**HAZARDOUS MATERIAL FACT SHEET**  
**Battery Disposal**

---

Batteries are generally regulated because of high amounts of heavy metals. Listed below are the proper management methods for different types of batteries. If you have questions or have batteries that are not included below, please contact EHS at (402) 559-6356 for disposal instructions.

Please note that **only** UNMC generated battery waste can be recycled through UNMC. It is prohibited to recycle your batteries from home or personal use.

- **Alkaline, carbon-zinc (heavy duty), and zinc-air batteries**  
These are the typical non-rechargeable batteries that most people use. They are not EPA regulated and although it is legal to throw them in the garbage, they can be recycled through the UNMC Alkaline Battery Recycling Program. The on-line 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**  
These batteries are found in watches, calculators, hearing aids, etc. Button batteries 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 on-line: [Chemical Waste Pick-up Request](#).
- **Lead-acid batteries**  
This includes 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. Lead-acid batteries that cannot be returned for credit should be labeled "Used Batteries" and a chemical collection tag completed. Contact EHS for pick-up.
- **Rechargeable batteries (containing Lithium Ion or Nickel-Cadmium)**  
These are the most common type of rechargeable battery and they can be found in cellular phones, equipment and toys. *Note: Sometimes rechargeable batteries are built into a machine, tool or toy (i.e., rechargeable flashlight). When these items will no longer work or stay charged, the whole thing must be properly recycled.* 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 on-line: [Chemical Waste Pick-up Request](#).
- **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 [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. Check with companies to see if they will take back old batteries when new ones are bought. If batteries cannot be returned, make sure they are collected and given to EHS for proper recycling.

Updated 09/2018

---

Please call 402.559.6356 or  
email [unmcehs@unmc.edu](mailto:unmcehs@unmc.edu) with any questions