

Did you know that in 2001, 507,259,000 batteries were sold in California yet only 0.55% were recycled¹? Some batteries have valuable, recyclable metals that can be used again. To protect the environment and promote sustainable practices, USC's battery recycling program aims to capture all single use and rechargeable batteries.

BATTERIES AS REGULATED WASTE

All batteries are considered hazardous waste in California when they are discarded. This includes all batteries of sizes AAA, AA, C, D, button cell, 9 Volt, and all other alkaline batteries, both rechargeable and single use.

Batteries fall into a separate category for hazardous waste called Universal Waste. This category includes: batteries, fluorescent lamps, cathode ray tubes (CRT), instruments containing mercury (e.g., thermometers, tilt type mercury switch, or thermostats) and others. In general, universal waste may not be discarded in solid waste landfills.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

A damaged battery may appear swollen, corroded, leaking, or exhibit burn marks. Defective batteries may not have outward signs of damage, but impact the performance of the devices they serve.

If used batteries show any evidence of leakage or damage, contact hazmat@usc.edu for clean-up and proper disposal.

RECYCLING CONTAINERS

EH&S distributed large, pre-labeled battery recycling containers (see image at right) at convenient locations throughout UPC and HSC to accommodate spent batteries (see UPC and HSC maps on next page). The clear, cylindrical containers will hold common battery types.

LARGE BATTERY PICK-UP

Request hazmat pick-up online for batteries larger than D-size (e.g., lantern, lead/acid; see images).



WHAT I NEED TO KNOW...

- Keep batteries in original packaging until needed.
- Store batteries at room temperature or below.
- Avoid humidity/water (especially for lithium batteries).
- Don't recharge a battery unless it is specifically marked "rechargeable".

BATTERY DISPOSAL

Do NOT place used batteries in or near trash containers or dumpsters. State law prohibits the storage of used batteries for longer than one year.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- DO NOT allow temperatures to exceed 125°F (52°C) where batteries are stored.
- Do not charge non-rechargeable batteries or overcharge rechargeable batteries (Li, NiCad). This may lead to over-heating, explosion, and fire. Consult the [Energizer®](#) web page for information on battery care and handling.
- DO NOT introduce another product (e.g., paper, plastic) into the battery recycling cylinder.
- Contact hazmat@usc.edu for more information.



REFERENCES

¹ Cal-EPA Integrated Waste Management Board
[Household Universal Waste Generation in California](#)

Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)
[Managing Universal Waste in California](#)

[Request a Hazmat Pickup](#)



Battery Recycling Container Locations @ UPC



Battery Recycling Container Locations @ HSC

