

## Environmental Hazards

Batteries may contain cadmium, mercury, copper, silver, zinc, lead, manganese, nickel, and lithium, which may create a hazard when disposed of incorrectly.

Batteries may produce the following potential problems or hazards:

- Contribute to metals that may leach from solid waste landfills and contaminate the soil and water.
- Pollute surface water and ground-water supplies.
- Expose the environment to lead and acid.
- May cause burns or a danger to eyes and skin.

Please dispose of batteries properly.

For detailed information about batteries:

[www.nema.org](http://www.nema.org) & search for "Household Batteries and the Environment"

## Other Important Information

The facility is NOT open on public holidays and may close in severe weather. If it is raining, snowing, or if winds exceed 35 mph, the facility will be closed. Please call 303.818.0721 to check for closures.

**Who Served:** Residents of Boulder County, City and County of Broomfield, and the Town of Erie. Please bring a driver's license or other proof of residency.

**Please Note:** The HHW program does NOT accept wastes from businesses, non-profit agencies, churches, clubs, etc.

**Cost:** This program is funded by municipalities based on participation by their residents. FREE to residents, although donations are accepted.

### Household Hazardous Waste Facility

#### Hours of Operation:

Wednesdays: 8 am - 3:30 pm

Fridays & Saturdays: 8 am - 12 noon

Accepts residential hazardous waste and reusable product giveaway during these hours.

**Location:** 5880 Butte Mill Rd, Boulder (operated by Boulder County, the facility is on Western Disposal property)

**HHW Hotline:** 303.441.4800

**Program Staff:** 720.564.2220

**Website:** [www.bouldercountyrecycles.net](http://www.bouldercountyrecycles.net)

Boulder County  
Resource Conservation Division  
1901 63rd Street, Boulder, Colorado 80301  
720.564.2220 voice; 720.564.2227 fax  
[www.bouldercountyrecycles.net](http://www.bouldercountyrecycles.net)



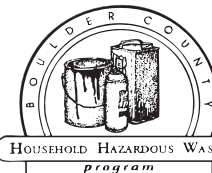
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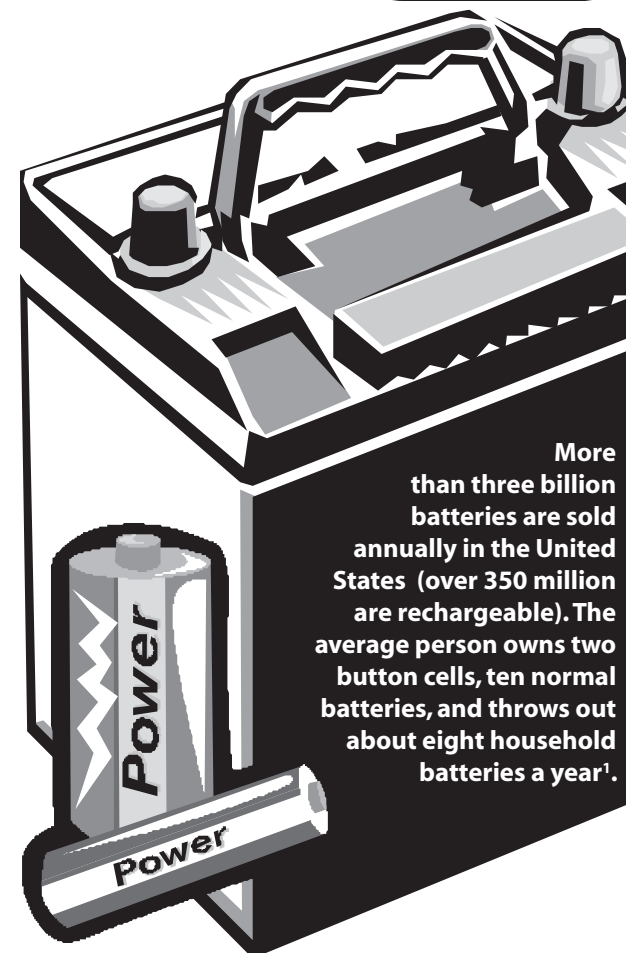
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## Household Batteries

HHW  
Fact Sheet  
#1



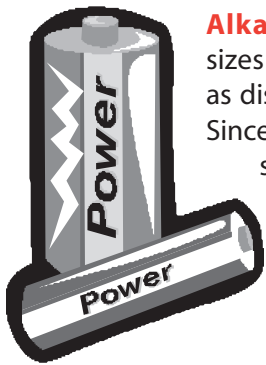
## What Should I Do With My Batteries?



More than three billion batteries are sold annually in the United States (over 350 million are rechargeable). The average person owns two button cells, ten normal batteries, and throws out about eight household batteries a year<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>Environmental Health and Safety Online, Battery Recycling and Disposal Guide for Households (2/15/2003); [www.ehso.com/ehshome/batteries.php](http://www.ehso.com/ehshome/batteries.php) EHSO, Inc Atlanta, GA.

# Battery Type and Disposal Method



**Alkaline** batteries come in many sizes and are commonly referred to as disposable or single-use batteries. Since the early 1990's manufacturers stopped adding mercury and cadmium to alkaline batteries, making them safe for landfill disposal. The majority of alkaline batteries are non-hazardous and **can be safely disposed with household garbage.**

Alkaline batteries that are more than 15 years

old should be brought to the HHW facility or collection event. Recycling of alkaline batteries is cost-prohibitive at this time.

**Button** batteries often contain metals and other hazardous ingredients and should be returned to the manufacturer when purchasing a new battery. Many shops that replace watch and hearing aid batteries accept your batteries for recycling at no charge. You may also bring your batteries to the HHW facility or collection event.

**Lithium** batteries contain lithium metal compounds and should be recycled. Exchange lithium batteries at the time of purchase or deliver to the HHW facility or collection event.

**Rechargeable** batteries are environmentally preferable because they last longer and can be easily recycled. However, they contain metals and other hazardous ingredients and should NOT be disposed of with household trash. Exchange at the time of purchase or deliver to the HHW facility or collection event.

*Some rechargeable batteries look like alkaline batteries. However, they contain Nickel and Cadmium and should be recycled. If in doubt, deliver the batteries to the HHW facility or collection event.*

*Sometimes rechargeable batteries are built into a machine, tool or appliance. Do not attempt to disassemble the equipment. Bring the whole unit to the HHW facility or collection event.*

Battery Type	Common Name	Sizes Available	Examples of Use	Proper Disposal
Alkaline/Zinc Carbon	Alkaline	AAAA, AAA, AA C, D, N, 6V, 9V	Flashlights, portable stereos, calculators, toys, clocks, smoke alarms, remote controls	Place in trash. If over 15 years old, bring to an HHW facility or collection event
Button	Mercuric Oxide, Silver Oxide, Lithium, Alkaline, Zinc-Air	Sizes vary from dime size to quarter size	Watches, hearing aids, greeting cards, toys, remote controls, cameras, calculators, and other small electronic devices	Exchange at time of purchase Or Bring to an HHW facility or collection event
Lithium	Usually has "lithium" label on the battery	3V, 6V, button size And Other odd shapes	Cameras, calculators, computer memory back-up units, tennis shoes	Exchange at time of purchase Or Bring to an HHW facility or collection event
Rechargeable	Nickel-Cadmium (Ni-Cd), Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH), Lithium Ion (Li-ion), and Small Sealed Lead-Acid (Pb)*	AAA, AA, C, D, 2V, 6V, 9V, 12V And Other varying sizes and odd shapes	Cellular phones, cordless phones and power tools, computer packs and laptops, camcorders, digital cameras, toys, flashlights, ATV's, wheel-chairs	Exchange at time of purchase Or Bring to an HHW facility or collection event
Car/Motorcycle	Lead-acid (Pb) Commonly sold as store brands	6V, 12V	Cars, trucks, motorcycles, boats, RV's, electric scooters	Return to store for core charge refund Or Bring to an HHW facility or collection event

\*Small Sealed Lead-acid batteries must weigh less than 2 lbs or 1 kg.

**Car/Motorcycle** batteries contain lead and acid and must be recycled. Most businesses require a trade-in when you purchase a new battery, or you will be assessed a fee (core charge). Trade in your old lead-acid battery at the time of purchase (or return your old battery to the retailer for a refund). Lead-acid batteries can pose serious dangers if disposed of with household trash and **should not** enter the landfill. Lead-acid batteries may also be delivered to the HHW facility or collection event.

