

In order to prevent battery-related fires in garbage trucks, transport trailers, recycling processing facilities and transfer stations, new Federal regulations were established for transporting single-use Lithium and rechargeable Lithium-Ion batteries by the Department of Transportation.

### Single-Use Batteries:

#### Alkaline Batteries



#### Lithium Batteries



According to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, single-use **Alkaline** batteries AAA, AA, C, D 6v & 9v are classified as "non-hazardous" and may be safely disposed with household trash. When possible, recycle Alkaline batteries to recover metals including zinc, manganese, brass and steel.

Residents may also put single-use **Lithium** batteries in the garbage, but it is prudent to recycle them when possible.

Because single-use **Alkaline** and **Lithium** batteries look amazingly similar, the best way to know is to read the label.

Always place individual Lithium batteries **in a plastic zip baggie, wrap it in plastic film or tape the terminal end with duct or electrical tape** before recycling or disposing in the garbage to eliminate the risk of sparking a fire.



### Find a location to recycle batteries:

*Call2Recycle* offers pre-paid boxes and partners with retail stores such as Best Buy, Home Depot and Lowes that accept lithium and rechargeable batteries only – **NO alkaline batteries!** Go to [call2recycle/locator](http://call2recycle/locator) for more information.

Check with your community to see if they collect batteries from residents.

### Rechargeable Batteries:



Rechargeable Nickel Cadmium (NiCd), Nickel Metal Hydride (NiMH), and Lithium-Ion batteries contain mercury and other heavy metals and according to the IEPA, should be recycled. These batteries are found in cordless electronics like power tools, laptop and tablet computers, cell and cordless phones, as well as some toys, power banks, home security alarms, cordless vacuums, toothbrushes, and other devices that are plugged in an outlet to recharge the battery.

Usually, these batteries are embedded in a product and residents should never try to remove them. Take product with battery intact to a recycler when possible – Abt Electronics, Goodwill, Best Buy, etc. SWANCC only accepts rechargeable batteries that are in the following electronics:

Cable Receivers	Portable Digital Assistants (PDAs)
Cell Phones	Printers (Multi-function Printers)
Computer cable	Satellite Receivers
Computer monitors	Scanners
Computers (Desktops, Tablets)	Televisions (All Types)
Converter Boxes	Video Game Consoles
Fax Machines	Video Recorders/Players
Keyboards	Zip Drives
Mice	
MP3 Players	

**Beware** of Lithium and Lithium Ion batteries that show signs of swelling, smoking, leaking or overheating. **Immediately put them in an absorbent, non-flammable material, such as sand or cat litter, in a cool, dry area.** Take to a [Household Hazardous Waste](#) facility. NEVER put a damaged Lithium battery in the garbage or a recycling cart!



### Automotive and Other Batteries:

Lead acid batteries automotive, marine and sump pump are prohibited by IL State law from being disposed of in the trash. See outlets for getting rid of these batteries by searching for batteries on SWANCC's [Reuse and Recycling Directory](#).

### Resources:

EPA's Universal Waste Rule - <https://www.epa.gov/hw/universal-waste>

Call2Recycle - [www.call2recycle.org](http://www.call2recycle.org)  
[www.avoidthespark.com](http://www.avoidthespark.com)

Find a battery recycling company by searching for batteries on SWANCC's [Reuse and Recycling Directory](#).

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