

How to Responsibly Recycle Your Car Battery

Lead-acid batteries are the most recycled consumer product, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. At a 99 percent recycling rate, that is more than paper, glass and cardboard. In fact, the typical new lead-acid battery contains 60 to 80 percent recycled lead and plastic. With more than 1 billion vehicles on the road across the globe, there's a constant stream of batteries in need of recycling.

Getting rid of an old car battery isn't quite as simple as throwing the old one away. Each lead-acid car battery contains about 20 pounds of lead – which is a significant amount and is quite valuable. Lead-acid batteries can be easily recycled, and in some cases, you can get paid for your efforts.

Here are some ways to responsibly recycle your car battery:

1. Online:
 - a. Use a website such as [Earth911](#) or [RecyclingMyBattery](#) to find locations near you that accept car batteries for recycling.
 - b. Some recycling programs offer pick-up services, such as AAA's [Great Battery Roundup program](#).
2. Take the battery to a parts store:
 - a. Take your car battery to your local auto shop or auto parts store. When you purchase a new battery, bring the old one with you.
3. Return it to the retailer:
 - a. Bring the old battery to your battery retailer and check your receipt to see if there was a core charge assessed when you purchased the new battery.
4. Sell it to a scrap metal depot:
 - a. Scrap metal services will buy the old car battery from you. This is especially helpful in situations where you've misplaced your receipt for your new battery and cannot collect your core charge back from the battery retailer.

Additional tip:

When returning your battery, place it in your vehicle's trunk, hatch or on the floor on a safe, disposable item. Use a section of plywood, a heavy plastic lid or a metal item like a garbage can lid.

Sources:

<http://www.businessinsider.com/how-to-recycle-batteries-2015-10>

<https://earth911.com/business-policy/lead-acid-batteries/>

<https://www.yourmechanic.com/article/how-to-dispose-of-car-batteries>