



HOW DO YOU MANAGE YOUR BATTERIES?

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What do batteries and plastic containers have in common? Both are ubiquitous and confusing to recyclers, having multiple chemistries in multiple products. Manufacturing of batteries will increase over 400% from 2020-2025. From button cells to embedded ones, batteries are smaller, lighter, cheaper, but more energy-dense than ever before. Their power can make them dangerous to manage, even if you think they have lost their charge. A recent fire in a York County recycling facility is believed to have started with a lithium-ion battery mixed with cardboard.

Batteries are either primary (one and done), or they are rechargeable. **Both types can be recycled, but they do NOT go in your recycling bin OR your trash bin.** Alkaline batteries (AA, AAA, etc.) are the ONLY ones that can safely go in trash. Remember - a spent battery can still have a charge. Lithium-ion batteries are flammable if they are punctured. It is unsafe to remove a Li-ion battery. Before battery drop off, tape the terminals, or put the same type of batteries (all NiCad, e.g.) in a plastic bag. [View the CCSWA's safety video here.](#)

Otherwise, bring them to a Home Depot or Lowes (check online), or [register for a county Household Hazardous Waste event here.](#)

Wouldn't it be helpful to have a universal labeling system for common household batteries so consumers will know how to manage them at end-of-life? Batteries *are* getting recycled for their component metals, thereby reducing extraction needed from the earth. That is a good thing. Please be responsible with your batteries!

ARE BICYCLE BATTERIES THE NEXT NEW THING?



Electric bikes use lithium batteries that may be recharged up to 1,000 times. Eventually, we will be hearing about the need to "dispose" of them. Additionally, with EV demand up, it is reasonable to think that more infrastructure will be needed to handle these "high watt hour" (>300 hrs.) batteries, automatically deemed "hazardous". But, there is a solution for bike batteries: the Call2Recycle product stewardship organization that recycles batteries has partnered with [People for Bikes](#) to collect bike batteries at retail bike shops.

If there is a bicycle shop in your community, please let them know about this program. Your residents can use this [locator](#) to find the area bike shops who are partners in this program.