

Batteries

Why we care

Most batteries contain heavy metals, such as mercury, silver, lead, cadmium, lithium, and nickel, that can contaminate the environment when landfilled or incinerated. Recycling batteries keeps heavy metals out of landfills and the air, and using recovered plastic and metals to make new batteries saves resources.

Simple, positive steps

- Choose plug-in products rather than battery-operated when possible.
- Purchase rechargeable rather than non-rechargeable batteries.
- Recycle your batteries.
 - Almost any retailer that sells lead-acid auto batteries is required by state law to accept used ones.
 - Rechargeable batteries never belong in the trash. Nickel-cadmium, nickel-metal hydride, and lithium-ion batteries contain heavy metals and need to be recycled. [Batteries Plus](#), [Far West Fibers](#), [Radio Shack](#), [Free Geek](#), [Home Depot](#), [Lowe's](#) and [Best Buy](#) are a few places that accept them for recycling without charge. [Bettery](#) has installed kiosks in several places in Portland where you can exchange old batteries for new.
 - Button-cell batteries (found in watches and hearing aids), lithium coin cells (used in keyless remotes, watches and hand-held devices), and nickel-zinc batteries also contain heavy metals.
 - Non-rechargeable household batteries such as alkaline and carbon-zinc batteries are allowed in your garbage can, but it's preferable to recycle them.
- All batteries are accepted at Batteries Plus (\$1/lb if no purchase), Metro's hazardous waste depots (\$5 fee), or household hazardous waste collection events. For specific questions and locations contact Metro at 503-234-3000.

Questions or feedback? Contact Jeanne Roy at jeanne@earthleaders.org.