



## Battery Recycling

### About Batteries

Take a quick look around your home and you'd be surprised to see that you use batteries in most common household items. Primary (single-use) batteries are typically found in toys, watches/clocks, smoke alarms, audiovisual equipment and remote controls. Secondary (rechargeable) batteries are most commonly found in cordless drills, mobile phones, laptops and PCs, shavers and cameras.



There are a growing number of options for recycling household batteries

Australians use thousands of tonnes of batteries every year, most of which end up in landfill where the metals can leak and contaminate soil and groundwater.

### Recycling Options

- Most councils offer regular collections and/or provide drop-off locations for hazardous waste.
- Aldi supermarkets offer a free battery recycling service at all their Australian stores. Any brand of AA, AAA, C, D and 9V batteries (both rechargeable and non-rechargeable) are accepted - simply drop your used batteries into the dedicated bins in store. IKEA and Battery World stores also have recycling programs.
- Several companies offer national collection program for batteries such as ECOACTIV and TRANSPACIFIC Cleanaway. They collect primary and secondary batteries in flat-packed boxes that can be sent back for recycling.
- There are a number of other local programs for recycling batteries. Search <http://recyclingnearyou.com.au/batteries> to find collection points in your local area.
- Drop off the battery when it is completely discharged – if you are not sure, cover the poles of the battery with a piece of sticky tape. For lead-acid or car batteries, see our [Car Battery \(Lead-Acid Battery\) Factsheet](#).

## Why Recycle Batteries?

- **It saves energy** – Buying rechargeable batteries is the best way to reduce battery waste. Each battery can be recharged up to 1000 times, saving you money and reducing pollution and the energy that goes into making discarded batteries.
- **It reduces environmental impacts** – Household batteries contain toxic metals such as cadmium, mercury and lead, which can be harmful to the environment when disposed of to landfill.
- **It saves resources** – batteries are mainly made from non-renewable based resources. Recycling existing batteries helps reduce the need to use these resources.
- **It reduces waste going to landfill** – recycling batteries diverts them from landfill where they are unable to break down. Used rechargeable batteries are classified as a hazardous waste under the *Hazardous Waste Act 1989*. This means that they should not be disposed of with general household waste.



Start a battery collection box at work

## Take Action

1. Try to minimize battery usage by connecting appliances to the main power where possible.
2. Find out, through [RecyclingNearYou.com.au](http://RecyclingNearYou.com.au) or your council's website, whether your council accepts batteries at their offices or libraries.
3. Find out where your local [Aldi](#), [IKEA](#) or [Battery World](#) store is for battery recycling.
4. When giving a gift that requires batteries provide some rechargeable batteries and a battery charger as part of the gift. Use rechargeable batteries whenever possible.
5. Start a battery collection box in your workplace or school to keep batteries out of the red bin by searching [BusinessRecycling.com.au](http://BusinessRecycling.com.au).

## Further Information

[Australian Battery Recycling Initiative](#)

[Aldi Battery Recycling](#)

[Battery World](#)

[ECOACTIV](#)

[Suez Battery Recycling Program](#)

[Envirostream](#)

Planet Ark Environmental Foundation

[RecyclingWeek.PlanetArk.org](http://RecyclingWeek.PlanetArk.org)

RECYCLING HOTLINE 1300 733 712



Major  
Sponsor



Associate  
Sponsors

