

# BATTERY RECYCLING/DISPOSAL



## SOLID WASTE SECTION

### WHY SHOULD I RECYCLE?

According to the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation (RBRC), consumers use an average of six wireless products in their daily lives and cell phones are replaced every 18 to 24 months, all of which contain batteries. The US Environmental Protection Agency estimates that there are currently 100 million cell phones ready for end of life management. This adds up to a considerable waste stream issue. The benefits of getting into the recycling stream include:

- **Conserves natural resources.** Valuable materials recovered from old electronics such as copper, aluminum, and even gold, can be used to manufacture new products. In doing so, we reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce pollution, save energy and water, and save natural resources by extracting less from the earth.
- **Protects your communities.** Proper management through recycling eliminates materials such as lead, mercury, arsenic, and cadmium from entering your waterways or contaminating land resources and protects your health

### Alkaline, carbon-zinc (heavy duty), and zinc-air batteries

These are the typical non-rechargeable batteries that most people use. They are nonhazardous, but for best disposal choices, see recycling options under recycling information.



### Button batteries

These batteries are found in watches, calculators, hearing aids, etc. Button batteries often contain mercury, silver, or lithium, and should be managed for proper disposal or recycling.



*\*TIP- buy rechargeable batteries, they last longer!*

### Lead-acid batteries

This includes most car and motorcycle batteries. Lead-acid batteries contain an average of 17.5 pounds of lead and 1.5 gallons of sulfuric acid. Improperly disposed lead-acid batteries can corrode and release lead and sulfuric acid. Iowa State law prohibits landfilling lead-acid batteries. Retailers are required to accept a used battery when a new one is purchased. Some retailers are willing to accept lead-acid batteries even when one is not purchased. Visit the Automotive Products Disposal Directory at [www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/LandStewardship/WasteManagement/Recycling/AutoDirectory.aspx](http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/LandStewardship/WasteManagement/Recycling/AutoDirectory.aspx)



### Nickel-cadmium (Ni-Cd) batteries

These are the most common type of rechargeable battery and they can be found in cellular phones, equipment, and toys. Ni-cad batteries contain regulated amounts of cadmium and should be recycled or handled as hazardous waste. Recycling is the best option from both an economical and environmental standpoint. The Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation can provide you with a place near you to recycle your batteries and cell phones. Go to [www.rbrc.com](http://www.rbrc.com)



### FACT

*Every year in the world 15 BILLION batteries are manufactured.*

### RECYCLING OPTIONS AND INFORMATION

- [www.call2recycle.org](http://www.call2recycle.org)
- [www.rbrc.com](http://www.rbrc.com)
- [www.batteryrecycling.com](http://www.batteryrecycling.com)
- [Earth911.com](http://Earth911.com)
- Your local regional collection center  
[www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/HouseholdHazardousMaterials/RegionalCollectionCenters.aspx](http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/HouseholdHazardousMaterials/RegionalCollectionCenters.aspx)