



Household Battery Recycling

The La Crosse County Household Hazardous Materials Program accepts most batteries for recycling. The only exception is alkaline batteries which may be placed in the trash.

Battery recycling requirements for households: Know the risk

Putting non-alkaline batteries in the trash or curbside recycling carts/bins poses a risk to garbage collectors, recycling facilities, solid waste transfer stations and landfills because of the potential for the batteries to catch on fire, especially if damaged by equipment. In addition, the heavy metals present in batteries can be released into the environment. Examples of recyclable batteries include:

- Lead-Acid
- Lithium-Ion
- Nickel-Cadmium
- Nickel-Metal Hydride
- Other rechargeable batteries

Electronics with integrated rechargeable batteries

Items containing integrated (cannot be removed) rechargeable batteries are banned from Wisconsin landfills and incinerators and must be recycled. Examples include:

- Cell phones
- Laptops
- Tablets
- Computer peripherals
- Other portable electronics with screens
- Portable jump starters

Storage and transportation

When storing and transporting batteries for recycling, take the following steps:

- Tape the terminal ends with clear tape to prevent arcing.
- Store batteries in a non-metal container.
- Store swollen or damaged batteries in sand or kitty litter.
- Do not co-mingle batteries with chemicals.

For more information, review the [Household Battery Recycling document](#) or contact us at (608) 785-9999.

