



KDHE/Bureau of Waste Management

785-296-1600

Dear Green Team: I've heard that it is safe to throw away common household batteries and that only rechargeable batteries can now be recycled. Is this true?

Answer: Remember, you can search for all recycled materials by location at the BIRP directory.

<http://www.kansasbirp.com>

See the Battery recycling list on the next page.

Today's common household batteries---are not thought to pose as great a threat to properly-equipped modern landfills as they used to because they contain much less mercury than their predecessors. **Consumers should note that any old batteries they may find that were made before 1997--when Congress mandated a widespread mercury phase-out in batteries of all types--should most surely be turned in at an HHW facility and not discarded with the trash,** as they may contain as much as 10 times the mercury of newer versions.

Some municipalities will accept common alkaline batteries (as well as older, more toxic ones) at household hazardous waste facilities, from where they will may be landfilled as hazardous or solid waste or sent elsewhere to be recycled as components in new batteries. Environmentally concerned consumers might feel better turning in common Alkaline batteries, as they still do contain trace amounts of mercury and other potentially toxic stuff.

Shawnee County Recycling and The City of Lawrence both collect common household batteries.

Of greater concern are **rechargeable batteries** from cell phones, MP3 players and laptops. Such items contain potentially toxic heavy metals inside, and if thrown out with the regular garbage can jeopardize the environmental integrity of both landfills and incinerator emissions.

Rechargeable Recycling Battery Corporation (RBRC) is a national non-profit, public service organization created to collect and recycle rechargeable batteries. **RBRC does not accept** mercury oxide, silver oxide, wet cell rechargeable batteries, lithium primary, alkaline or button type batteries.

RBRC's service is **FREE** to municipalities, communities, retailers, public agencies and now all types of businesses (as of 5/17/05). The rechargeable batteries meeting the above criteria can be shipped and recycled at no-cost to all entities who register for the program. You can register for the program on line at the webpage www.rbrc.org or www.call2recycle.org or download the registration form and fax it to 1-877-405-6082.

Consumers can help by limiting their electronics purchases to items that carry the RBRC logo on their packaging. Furthermore, they can find out where to drop off old rechargeable batteries (and even old cell phones) by calling RBRC's hotline at 1-800-8BATTERY or by visiting the online drop location finder at RBRC.org. Also, most Radio Shack stores will take back rechargeable batteries and deliver them to RBRC free-of-charge. RBRC then processes the batteries via a thermal recovery technology that reclaims metals such as nickel, iron, cadmium, lead and cobalt, repurposing them for use in new batteries.

CONTACTS: Battery Solutions, www.batteryrecycling.com Earth911, www.earth911.org Batteries Plus, www.batteriesplus.com Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation (RBRC), www.rbrc.org.

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<http://www.kansasbirp.com/centerdirectory.asp>

Battery recycling list:

Advance Auto Parts - Douglas County

Advance Auto Parts - Shawnee County
lead/acid batteries

Batteries Plus - Shawnee County

Ni-Cd Batteries, nickel metal hydride batteries, lithium ion batteries, small sealed lead batteries (>2 lbs), rechargeable batteries

Best Buy - Shawnee County Ni-Cd Batteries, nickel metal hydride batteries, lithium ion batteries, small sealed lead batteries (>2 lbs), rechargeable batteries

Electrolife Battery, Inc. - Douglas County

Ni-Cd Batteries, nickel metal hydride batteries, lithium ion batteries, batteries less than 2 lbs., rechargeable batteries, all lead-acid batteries

Gregg Tire - Shawnee County

lead/acid batteries (auto/truck)

Home Depot - Shawnee County

Ni-Cd Batteries, nickel metal hydride batteries, lithium ion batteries, small sealed lead batteries (>2 lbs), rechargeable batteries

Home Recycling Service - Shawnee County

Batteries

City of Lawrence/Douglas County - HHW

dry cell batteries, household batteries, lead/acid batteries, rechargeable batteries, gell batteries, Ni-Cd batteries, photo batteries, wet batteries, button batteries

Langley Recycling of Topeka - Shawnee County
Batteries

Lawrence Battery Co. - Douglas County

Lonnie's Recycling, Inc. - Douglas County
auto/truck batteries, lead/acid batteries

Lowe's Home Improvement - Shawnee County

Ni-Cd Batteries, nickel metal hydride batteries, lithium ion batteries, small sealed lead batteries (>2 lbs), rechargeable batteries

Office Depot - Shawnee County

cell phones, rechargeable batteries (nickel cadmium, nickel metal hydride, lithium ion, small sealed lead rechargeable batteries less than 2 pounds)

O'Reilly Auto Parts - Douglas County

O'Reilly Auto Parts – Shawnee County

lead/acid batteries (auto/truck)

Radio Shack - Shawnee County

ni-cd batteries, rechargeable batteries, nickel metal hydride batteries, cell phones, most types of batteries, lithium ion batteries, small sealed lead batteries (less than 2 lbs.)

Sears Repair Services - Shawnee County

Ni-Cd Batteries, nickel metal hydride batteries, lithium ion batteries, small sealed lead batteries (>2 lbs), rechargeable batteries

Shawnee County Recycling - Shawnee County

ni-cd batteries, lead/acid batteries, household batteries

Target Stores - Douglas County

Topeka Battery - Shawnee County

ni-cd batteries, lead/acid batteries (auto/truck), rechargeable batteries, nickel metal hydride batteries

Twelve and Haskell Bargain Center - Douglas County

lead/acid batteries

Verizon Wireless - Shawnee County

used cell phones, Ni-Cd Batteries, nickel metal hydride batteries, lithium ion batteries, small sealed lead batteries (>2 lbs), rechargeable batteries

Wal*Mart - Douglas County

button batteries (jewelry counter), tires (fee, at automotive center), motor oil (automotive service center), lead/acid batteries (auto/truck, automotive service center)

Wal*Mart - Shawnee County

Ni-Cd batteries, Nickel Metal hydride batteries, lithium ion batteries, small sealed lead batteries (less than 2 pounds), rechargeable batteries

Wolfe's Cameras, Camcorders & Computers - Shawnee County

Ni-Cd Batteries, nickel metal hydride batteries, lithium ion batteries, small sealed lead batteries (>2 lbs), rechargeable batteries