Safe Smart Solutions for Batteries

The Call2Recycle network

- Recycles button, sealed lead acid, NiCd, or Li-Ion batteries at no charge to residents or businesses. Visit www.Call2Recycle.org to find your nearest participating collection location.

Iowa Regional Collection Centers (RCCs)

- Recycle button, rechargeable, sealed lead acid or large lead acid batteries at no charge for residents and a small fee for businesses who are Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators.

For more information contact your local Solid Waste Agency or your Regional Collection Center.

www.iowadnr.gov/hhm
to find out more and locate your local RCC

Tips from Kaya

Button batteries can be extremely hazardous to young children if swallowed and can cause permanent damage to your health.

Button batteries are often overlooked by caregivers as they may not know the child has swallowed a battery and symptoms may mimic the flu. Store these batteries out of reach of children and recycle them.

Change Our Ways. Change Our World.

BATTERIES

PROPER MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL

Batteries come in a multitude of sizes, shapes, and chemistries, from the small Nickel Cadmium batteries used in your digital camera to the twenty-pound lead-acid battery in your car. Many of these batteries contain heavy metals such as lead and cadmium. Although safe when used properly, if batteries are disposed of improperly, exposure to heavy metals can be hazardous to human health and the environment.

Battery Types

- **Alkaline batteries** are non-rechargeable batteries (e.g. AA, AAA, C and D) that are commonly used in flashlights, clocks and other applications. Although these batteries are no longer made with hazardous materials and can be disposed of in your trash, a better option economically and environmentally is to purchase rechargeable batteries.

- **Button batteries** are small, round and silver-colored and are most commonly found in watches, hearing aids, cameras, calculators, and other small electronic devices. Button batteries often contain mercury, silver or lithium.

- **Sealed Lead Acid Batteries (non-automotive)** may be used in such applications as uninterruptible power supply (UPS) battery backup (a device that keeps computers running for a short period of time after a power failure), remote control cars or home alarms.

- **Lead Acid Batteries (automotive):** are used in large equipment and machinery (e.g. cars, trucks, boats, motorcycles) and for stationary stand-by power.
  Section 455D.10 of the Code of Iowa prohibits land disposal of lead acid batteries. The law also requires that retailers accept your old lead acid battery at the point of sale, when you buy a new one.

- **Rechargable Batteries** such as nickel-cadmium (NiCd) and Lithium Ion (Li-Ion) are the most common types of rechargeable batteries, used in cellular phones, small electronic equipment and toys. Rechargable batteries are hazardous to your health and the environment as they contain heavy metals like cadmium. Recycling these batteries when they no longer hold a charge is the best option.

A Few Tips:

- Remove the batteries before disposing of a product.
- Buy batteries only as you need them as they do have a limited shelf life.
- Don't mix old batteries with new ones or rechargeable ones with alkaline.