



# Battery Recycling

Every year TU uses hundreds of pounds of batteries that are thrown away when no longer needed and ultimately end up in local landfills. In addition to plastic and steel, the majority of these batteries contain corrosives, heavy metals or other hazardous constituents that pose a risk to our environment. All of these elements can be recovered and used in the re-manufacturing of new batteries and other consumer products. Nationally, the EPA estimates that batteries make up 10% to 25% of our domestic hazardous waste stream. To protect our environment, used batteries can now be collected for recycling by Environmental Health & Safety (EHS).

Some of the batteries that can be recycled include:

- Single Use Non-Rechargeable Alkaline or Carbon Zinc Dry Cell (6V, 9V, C, D, AA, AAA, etc.)
- Lithium/Lithium Ion
- Mercury/Mercuric Oxide
- Nickel Cadmium (Ni-Cd, Ni-Cad)
- Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH)
- Silver Oxide, Zinc Air Button
- Sealed Lead Acid/Lead Gel
- Button batteries

If your battery isn't listed, contact EHS at [recycling@towson.edu](mailto:recycling@towson.edu) for guidance. This program is intended only for batteries used on campus. Individuals should continue to use household hazardous waste days and manufacturers purchase/exchange programs for disposal of batteries generated at home or other off-campus locations. Please don't leave batteries outside pending recycling.

## Safety Guidelines:

- To guard against possible short circuiting, the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation (established by battery manufacturers) recommends doing at least one of the following to prepare **rechargeable batteries** for recycling:
  1. **Discharge Cells:** This should be done only by a knowledgeable engineer or technician.
  2. **Terminal Protection:** If you cannot assure that the cells have been completely discharged, cover the terminals of each battery with non-conductive tape.
  3. **Place in a Plastic Bag:** Batteries may be placed separately in plastic bags so the terminals will not come in contact with other batteries or metal during storage or transport.
  4. Package batteries so that terminals will not short-circuit during storage or transport.
- Single use, non-rechargeables do not need their terminals taped.
- Place leaking batteries into a sealed plastic zip-lock bag to contain chemical contamination.

Wet cell batteries such as lead acid motor vehicle batteries are not included in this program but can be recycled. A collection pallet with secondary containment is located in the General Service Truck Well adjacent to the Material Management roll-up door. Cracked or leaking wet cell batteries can't be recycled and must be disposed of as hazardous waste. Contact EHS at [recycling@towson.edu](mailto:recycling@towson.edu) for guidance on the disposal of wet cell batteries. Please don't leave batteries outside pending recycling.


## **Recycling Procedures**

EHS provides three options for the free recycling of small used batteries ( $\leq 2$  lbs.) generated on campus.

### **1. Drop off used batteries in a battery recycling bucket located near you.**

A list of current battery recycling bucket locations is shown below. If your department routinely generates large quantities of waste batteries, contact EHS about obtaining your own recycling bucket. (5 gallon shown on left- 2.5 gallon shown on right)



<b>Building</b>	<b>Battery Recycling Container Location</b>
Administration	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor - Procurement Department – AD 410 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor - Financial Services – Payroll Counter
Child Care Center	Receptionist Desk – Main Lobby
Cook Library	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor – Media Services - CK 202G 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor – Technical Services - CK 322 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor - Circulation Desk
General Services	Truck Well – Adjacent to Materiel Management Roll-up Door (30 Gal Drum) 
Smith Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Hallway- Adjacent to SM 581</li> <li>• Physics Electronics Shop – SM 317</li> <li>• Biology Stockroom – SM 322</li> </ul>
University Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor - Information Desk</li> </ul>
Van Bokkelen Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speech &amp; Language Clinic – VB 01</li> </ul>

If your department would like to have a battery recycling location in your building, contact EHS at [recycling@towson.edu](mailto:recycling@towson.edu).

**2. Mail your waste batteries to EHS via Campus Mail.**

If there is not a battery recycling bucket near you, contact EHS at (410) 296-7593 or at [recycling@towson.edu](mailto:recycling@towson.edu) and ask for a Battery Recycling Mailer to be sent to you via Campus Mail. The Mailers are pre-labeled. Once the Mailer is filled, seal it tightly and put it into the Campus Mail to EHS. Make sure the Campus Mailing address is showing and please don't overfill.



**3. Contact EHS.**

If there isn't a Battery Recycling Bucket near you or your batteries are too big to fit in either the bucket or the mailer, place your waste batteries in a sturdy, leak-proof container and contact EHS at (410) 296-7593 or at [recycling@towson.edu](mailto:recycling@towson.edu) to arrange disposal.