

The Gainesville Zero Waste News

Where You Can Drop Off Your Household Batteries For Recycling

Batteries power every cordless electronic device we have in our home, and our demand for more unplugged power is increasingly growing. While advances in battery technology are seemingly made daily to meet our need for more powerful batteries that are cheaper and lighter, there's a limited supply of many of the elements used to make new batteries. **It is critically important that we do our part and recycle our used rechargeable batteries to prevent future battery shortages.**

Standard-sized batteries (AA, AAA, C, D, and 9-volt) are commonly used to power portable radios, flashlights, and small toys. These dry-cell alkaline batteries are also referred to as "single-use" or "disposable" batteries because they have limited recycling potential. While these batteries contain small amounts of zinc and other metals, they are no longer considered hazardous since manufacturers stopped putting mercury in them in the mid-1990s. **Alkaline or any other type of battery should never be placed in your recycle bins at home;** however, they can be dropped off for recycling at the [Alachua County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center](#). The smart move is to get a set of new standard-sized rechargeable batteries and save yourself money in the long run.

Single-use batteries are increasingly being replaced with rechargeable batteries in many products. Small consumer products such as cell phones, cordless tools, computer tablets, and electric toothbrushes are powered using rechargeable batteries. Lithium-ion (Li-ion) rechargeable batteries have mostly replaced their Nickel-cadmium (Ni-Cd) rechargeable battery predecessors. The Li-ion rechargeable batteries are lighter and hold a longer charge. Rechargeable batteries contain valuable metals such as cobalt, nickel, and lithium and should be recycled at their end-of-life.



There are several options available for recycling your rechargeable batteries. **Most cellular phone stores, large retail stores, and hardware stores have drop-off containers for you to drop off your rechargeable batteries for recycling.** You can also visit [Call2Recycle.org](#) to find a batteries recycling drop-off location near you. For a list of other local battery recycling options, use the [Gainesville Recycling Resource Guide](#).

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