



Fact Sheet

Battery Safety

February 5, 2020

Today batteries are found everywhere; hand held devices, cameras, cell phones, tools, toys, safety devices, and even in vehicles. Taking into consideration batteries contain trace amounts of mercury and other potentially toxic materials, proper disposal and recycling of batteries in a safe and environmentally responsible manner is essential. Recycling by hazardous waste processing facilities allows components of batteries to be processed into new batteries.

Batteries are compact and lightweight, delivering high output with minimal size. Although accidents are rare, those that do occur may result in an explosion or fire. Proper disposal of batteries will minimize the risk of an accident.

Even batteries with a small voltage like commonly used AA and AAA alkaline batteries can start a fire under the right conditions. If an article made of metal is in contact with the battery posts, or if a metal object meets more than one battery post on multiple batteries, a short circuit may result, generating enough heat to start a fire. Please note that weak batteries still have enough charge to pose a fire hazard.

It is recommended that all positive terminals of batteries be covered and taped prior to recycling. Taping both the positive and negative terminals with a single piece of tape around the top and bottom of the battery cell, covering both terminal ends so that they may not come into contact with metal and/or other batteries will ensure safe disposal. On 6 volt batteries, place a piece of tape around the terminal springs to prevent smaller button cell type batteries from becoming wedged in-between the terminal. Please note the positive terminal on a battery is marked with a + symbol, or may be identified as the red terminal.

Keep the following tips in mind for battery storage:

- Store used batteries in a cool and dry area. Batteries should not be stored in extreme heat, near flammable materials, or in locations where there is moisture or humidity.
- The risk of fire or explosion increases if the battery is exposed to hot conditions, heated, or the battery and/or internal component is compromised.
- Refrain from storing batteries and charging batteries in high temperatures, or in hot vehicles. Also refrain from overcharging your batteries, and follow manufactures instructions.

Many facilities offer recycling programs including:

Greengo Recycling Center - Barrie
Telephone: 705-722-8711

Total Battery - Barrie
Telephone: 705-726-6660

All Ontario Recycling Barrie - Barrie
Telephone: 705-721-1412

Barrie Recycling - Barrie
Telephone: 705-739-4219

Canadian Tire located in Bayfield Mall - Barrie
Telephone: 705-726-6418

Barrie Recycling & Waste Inc. - Barrie
Telephone: 705-792-6557

Quantum Lifecycle Partners LP - Barrie
Telephone: 1-866-288-8016

Staples - Barrie
Telephone: 705-735-4058

FMR Scrap Buyers - Orillia
Telephone: 705-325-8118

Triple M Metal LP - Orillia
Telephone: 705-325-1301

SLM Recycling - Orillia
Telephone: 705-330-9599

Household Hazardous Waste Depot - Orillia
Telephone: 705-325-3522

Additionally, the County of Simcoe offers a curbside battery collection week, where residents may collect their used and unwanted batteries for curbside pick up ensuring disposal and recycling. Oro-Medonte Fire & Emergency Services encourages participation in this program. For details regarding the County of Simcoe's Battery Collection Program, please visit <https://www.simcoe.ca/>.

Please ensure that fire safety is always kept in mind when storing batteries and participating in battery collection programs.

For additional questions or concerns, please contact Oro-Medonte Fire & Emergency Services at 705-487-2171