

KEEP LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES OUT OF TRASH & RECYCLING

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It is extremely likely that you have rechargeable lithium-ion batteries in your home – to power a cell phone, laptop, or power tool, for example. Batteries are both ubiquitous and confusing, having various sizes and chemistries in multiple products. They also don't last forever. It is important to know how to properly dispose of them, **ESPECIALLY** those with lithium-ion (Li-ion). From button cells to embedded ones, batteries are smaller, lighter, cheaper, but more energy-dense than ever before. Their power can make them dangerous to manage, even if you think they have lost their charge.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT? The two Chester County landfills that accept your trash must routinely manage potential fire conditions. Collectors of trash and recyclables must also be prepared for dangerous materials that may be hidden in residents' containers. You wouldn't want a "hot load" dumped in your neighborhood!

BASIC FACTS: Batteries are either primary (one and done), or they are rechargeable.

RECHARGEABLES DO NOT go in your recycling bin OR your trash bin.

- Look for these symbols that mean lithium-ion in a battery: Li-ion, Li+, LiB, LiB, UN3480, and UB 3481 (If built into a product).
- Beware counterfeit Li-ion batteries; they are often made with lower quality materials and less safety features. Look for misspelled words, forged certifications, cheap packaging and pricing, and suspicious third-party sellers online.

HOW YOU SHOULD HANDLE "DEAD" BATTERIES:

- A spent battery can still have a charge. Li-ion batteries are flammable if they are punctured. It is unsafe to remove a Li-ion battery. Before battery drop-off, tape the terminals, or put the same **type** of batteries (all NiCad, e.g.) in a plastic bag. [View the CCSWA's safety video here.](#)
- Retailers such as Staples, Home Depot, and Lowes often accept batteries. Check online or use Call2Recycle's zip code locator: www.call2recycle.org/locator/
- [Register for a County Household Hazardous Waste event here.](#)
- Bicycle batteries: the Call2Recycle product stewardship organization that recycles batteries has partnered with [People for Bikes](#) to collect bike batteries at retail bike shops.
- Small power equipment batteries: www.opei.org/battery-basics/
- Alkaline batteries (AA, AAA, etc.) are the **ONLY** ones that can safely go in trash.
- For more battery types, visit www.chestercountyswa.org/373/Disposing-of-Batteries

Batteries *are* getting recycled for their component metals, thereby reducing extraction needed from the earth. That is a good thing. Please be safe and responsible with your batteries.

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