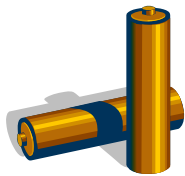


# Be Smart About Safety

Environment, Health, and Safety  
Risk Services  
University of California Office of the President

## SAFE-T-GRAM

### Used Batteries



**Help keep batteries out of the trash**



#### 1. Why can't batteries go into the trash?

The toxic heavy metals and corrosive properties of batteries make them unsuitable for disposal in the municipal trash. Alkaline and other batteries (AA, AAA, AAAA, C cells, D cells, 9-volt, and button batteries) contain caustic electrolytes that can cause severe chemical burns if the electrolyte comes into contact with the skin or eyes. Many batteries also contain toxic heavy metals like lithium, silver, cadmium, nickel, and mercury. Toxic metals in landfills have the potential to contaminate surface waters and groundwater. UCOP will be collecting used batteries generated onsite for recycling and disposal purposes..

#### 2. What should I do with unwanted batteries?

Do not place used batteries in trash cans. "Used Battery" bins are labeled with a green fluorescent label and have been placed throughout the UCOP office sites in the kitchen areas. Ask your Department Safety Officer where the nearest "Used Battery" bin is located for your work area.

#### 3. What if I have a leaking battery?

To ensure leaking batteries do not contaminate work and office areas, sealable Ziplock® bags have been placed in each of the "Used Battery" bins. If the battery is leaking, simply place the leaking battery inside the Ziplock® bag, seal the bag, and place the bag in the "Used Battery" bin.



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## 4. Are Automotive Type Batteries Included?

Due to the large amount of lead and sulfuric acid in automotive batteries, used automotive batteries are defined as a “hazardous waste” by the State of California and must be handled differently. Typically the automotive parts store where you purchase the battery will take back your old battery for free or for a nominal cost. They should not be brought to your worksite for disposal.

## 5. What happens to used batteries on at UCOP?

The UCOP EH&S Coordinator will periodically collect the batteries from the “Used Battery” bin and will arrange to have the batteries taken to a hazardous waste collection facility where the batteries will be sorted by battery chemistry. From there the batteries are either taken to a hazardous waste recycler or will be properly managed for treatment and/or disposal permitted hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facility.

## 6. What do I do with old batteries at home?

In the interest in protecting public health and the environment, UCOP EH&S is allowing UCOP employees to bring their used household batteries to the office and place them in the “Used Battery” bin. This will allow the used battery to be properly managed to protect the environment. You may also bring you household used batteries to several designated household used battery collection points which have been established by local household hazardous waste collection programs. For the location of the nearest battery collection location, contact your local household hazardous waste facility to determine your county’s recycling and disposal services:

**Alameda County** 1-800-606-6606

**West Contra Costa County (Richmond)** 1-888-412-9277

**Central Contra Costa County (Martinez)** 1-800-646-1431

**San Francisco City and County** (415) 554-4333. Drop-off locations can be found at the San Francisco website at: [http://www.sfenvironment.com/directories/house\\_battery.htm](http://www.sfenvironment.com/directories/house_battery.htm)

If your old battery is a rechargeable type, the rechargeable power industry has funded a program to have participating companies collect old home-use rechargeable batteries at their local retail outlets. Many of these locations are cell phone dealers, hardware or consumer electronics stores, or local department stores. For the location of the nearest drop off location you can go to the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation website at: <http://www.rbr.org/consumer/uslocate.html>

Contact UCOP EH&S at (510)987-9772 if you have any questions. Thank you for doing your part to protect the environment and meet regulatory requirements.