



LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
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HOUSEHOLD BATTERIES



June 2002

Batteries and the Environment

The citizens of Lincoln and Lancaster County buy nearly 2 million batteries every year, according to a recent survey. Batteries, even the renewable and rechargeable types, eventually wear out and must be thrown away.

Toxic metals found in batteries include mercury, cadmium, lead, zinc, manganese, lithium, silver, and nickel. These metals, when disposed of improperly, can pose risks for human health and the environment. When toxic metals end up in the landfill they may potentially leach into the groundwater. Although manufacturers of batteries are now reducing the amount of toxic chemicals in their products, batteries are still considered a threat to our health and environment. Because of their widespread use and toxic makeup, household batteries have been collectively identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a potentially hazardous component of the solid waste stream.

Batteries come in a variety of shapes and sizes and are classified according to their chemical composition.

Types of Batteries

- Lead-acid batteries can usually be traded in for new batteries when making purchases. There are several lead-acid collection sites in Lancaster County. The collectors of these batteries then send them to an EPA Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)-permitted facility that smelts and refines the lead.
- Alkaline batteries make up the largest portion of batteries sold in the United States. These batteries are classified as *nonhazardous* and can be landfilled.
- Mercury and silver oxide are found in *button batteries*. Many Lancaster County businesses will collect all types of button batteries and turn them over to recyclers and refineries. These EPA-permitted facilities recover both silver and mercury; however, most facilities prefer batteries that contain silver oxide.
- Lithium is also found in some button batteries. Because unspent lithium batteries are highly water-reactive and may rupture or explode at elevated temperatures, they should be taken to a local merchant for recycling.
- Nickel-cadmium (*nicad*) batteries are rechargeable and can replace as many as 300 single-use (nonrechargeable) batteries in normal usage. They are hazardous. When they will no longer recharge, take them to a local battery recycler.

Lincoln Battery Recyclers



Lincoln and Lancaster County residents currently have local recycling options for most batteries. The following businesses in Lincoln will accept used batteries for recycling.

INTERSTATE ALL BATTERY CENTER

4310 No. 27th
Lincoln, NE 68503
Phone: 474-1991

Will accept small quantities of any type of battery except alkaline at no charge. A fee will be assessed for large quantities @ 75¢ per pound.

THE BATTERY STATION
5970 Cornhusker Hwy
Lincoln, NE 68507
Phone: 467-2539

Lead-Acid batteries only.

HARROLD'S BATTERY SERVICE
3320 Cornhusker Hwy
Lincoln, NE 68504
Phone: 466-8667

Will accept small quantities of any type of battery (except oil-filled) at no charge. A fee will be assessed for large quantities. Also a battery ACID collection site—please call ahead.



Lead-Acid (Automotive) Batteries

**See list on other
side for additional
sites**

T. O. HAAS TIRE CO.
2400 "O" St.
Lincoln, NE 68510
Phone: 474-1525

*All T. O. Haas Tire Company
locations will take batteries:*

640 West "O" St.

13th & South Streets

1150 N. 48th St.

4700 Cornhusker Hwy

5900 So. 56th St.

7201 So. 27th St.

2700 Folkways Blvd.

14311 Hwy 6
Waverly, NE

GM AUTO PARTS
5440 N. 70th St.
Phone: 467-3531

Please call ahead.



Button Batteries



FRED WILSON JEWELERS
1309 "O" Street
Lincoln, NE 68508
Phone: 475-2474

THE GOLD SMITH
3227 South 13th Street
Lincoln, NE 68502
Phone: 421-2253

THE GOLDWORKS
4240 South 33rd Street
Lincoln, NE 68506
Phone: 488-8217

SARTOR HAMANN
1150 "O" Street
Lincoln, NE 68508
Phone: 476-8561

SARTOR HAMANN
129 Gateway Shopping Center
Lincoln, NE 68505
Phone: 467-2509

TARGET
333 North 48th Street
Lincoln, NE 68504
Phone: 464-8292

THE TIME SHOPPE
6450 "O" Street, Suite 6
Lincoln, NE 68510
Phone: 467-1884

WALGREENS
1701 South Street
Lincoln, NE 68502
Phone: 435-2135

WALGREENS
2502 North 48th St.
Lincoln, NE 68504
Phone: 466-1404

WALGREENS
5701 Village Blvd
Lincoln, NE 68516
Phone 421-7116

WRIGHT'S JEWELERS
144 North 13th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508
Phone: 474-0774

Cellular Phone Batteries

CELLULAR ONE
North 48 Centro Plaza
Lincoln, NE 68504
Phone: 466-1400

*Will accept batteries from
customers only for recycling.*

CELLULAR ONE
Gateway Mall
Lincoln, NE 68505
Phone: 466-0700

*Will accept batteries from
customers only for recycling.*

BEST BUY CELLULAR, INC.
3865 South
Lincoln, NE 68506
Phone: 441-3111

ALLTEL CELLULAR
Cotner & "O"
Lincoln, NE 68510
Phone: 436-5050

*Will accept batteries from
customers only for recycling.*

*Accepts donations of phones for
victims of domestic violence.*

