

Memorandum

To: Facilities Management, Fine Arts, Housing / Residence Life, Information Technology, Library, Marine and Natural Science, Media Service, Performing Arts, Public Safety, SAAHP, SECCM, Student Programs and Leadership / Stage Crew
CC: Office of General Counsel
From: Environmental Health and Safety
Date: 3/11/2014
Re: Campus Battery Recycling Program

The Department of Environmental Health and Safety has made the following updates to the campus's battery recycling program:

1. Used alkaline batteries should be disposed of in the regular trash. Alkaline batteries are not truly "recyclable" and are also not regulated as universal wastes by the EPA or RIDEM. RWU will no longer collect alkaline batteries. (Note: older alkaline batteries will occasionally form a white crust around the ends – these batteries can still go in the regular trash).
2. Each of the departments listed on this memo will be given a battery collection pail and Ziploc-style plastic bags. These collection pails and bags are for the department to use when disposing of any regulated batteries used by their department. **RWU does not accept any batteries from employees' homes or other non-RWU sources.**
 - a. Regulated batteries that can be disposed of in the collection pails include:
 - i. **Lithium-Ion** ("button cell" batteries, lap top and cellphone batteries, AA- and AAA-sized long-life batteries such as Energizer Advanced Lithium; see attached)
 - ii. **Nickel-Cadmium / Nickel-Metal Hydride** (small appliance and tool batteries, radio batteries; see attached)
 - b. Department members are to **individually bag each battery** before placing batteries into the collection pail. Individually bagging batteries is a federal Department of Transportation requirement to prevent fires and explosions that can result from unprotected batteries contacting one another (search for the Darlaston, Cartersville, or Toxco battery recycling plant fires for examples).
 - c. Please put in a "Health/Safety" work order to request extra bags or to have a full collection pail picked up. Partially-filled pails will be picked up annually.
3. Place a "Health/Safety" work order to dispose of any lead-acid batteries (do not place these in collection pails). These regulated batteries have the potential to spill and are managed separately. Store upright in a plastic bin while waiting for pickup. Cover both terminals with duct or electrical tape. Disconnect any connected batteries. See the attached page for examples.
4. Contact Public Safety (x3333) in the event of any battery-related incident, such as leaking lead-acid batteries, batteries that are hot to the touch, or other known or suspected unsafe conditions.
5. Students may recycle their regulated batteries in the pail at the Center for Student Development.
6. Always wash your hands after handling batteries.

Please forward this memo to your respective employees. The April EHS Safety Tip will notify the campus community of these program changes.

EXAMPLES OF VARIOUS BATTERY TYPES

Alkaline (AA, AAA, C, D, 9V, Lantern-Style) – PLACE IN TRASH



Look for the word “**Alkaline**” printed on the battery.

Lithium-Ion – PLACE IN RECYCLING CONTAINER



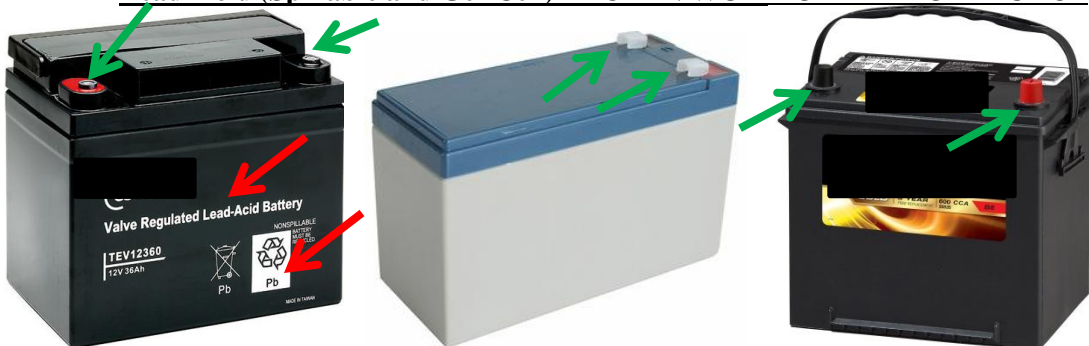
Look for “**Lithium Ion**” or “**Li-Ion.**” Watch for standard sized AA and AAA batteries!

Nickel-Cadmium and Nickel Metal Hydride – PLACE IN RECYCLING CONTAINER



Look for “**Nickel Cadmium,**” “**Ni-Cad,**” “**Ni-Cd,**” “**Nickel Metal Hydride,**” or “**Ni-MH**”

Lead-Acid (Spillable and Gel-Cell) – PUT IN WORK ORDER FOR PICKUP



Look for “**Lead Acid**” or “**Pb**” – Use duct or electrical tape to cover both **terminals**

New Battery Recycling Containers

**Bag all batteries individually before placing them into the container
(this is a Dept. of Transportation requirement to prevent fires)**



DO NOT BAG TOGETHER!



BAG INDIVIDUALLY!