



Safety Instruction

Waste: Batteries

Batteries are considered Universal Waste under federal law. This is a special category of hazardous waste and must be managed/disposed of appropriately. EH&S handles battery collection and recycling on campus. This is accomplished in one of two ways.

- Battery Recycle Containers** – There are 5 gallon battery recycle containers (buckets) positioned around campus. These containers are for the recycle of any common battery size including 9 volt, AA, AAA, C, and D cell as well as rechargeable batteries for personal electronics (laptops, cell phones, etc.) and smaller 'button' type batteries. Any type of rechargeable or single use battery which will fit through the opening in the top of the bucket can be placed in these buckets including alkaline, Ni-MH, Lithium, Lithium-Ion, etc.
- Direct Pickup By EH&S** – This applies to car/truck sized batteries, lead-acid batteries from uninterruptable power supplies, wet cell batteries such as those from motorcycles/atv's and any battery too large to fit in the recycle bucket or which may leak.



For a direct pickup of batteries by EH&S or to notify EH&S about a full or nearly full battery recycle bucket at any campus location please submit a [Hazardous Waste Pickup Request](#).

Battery recycle containers are located in multiple locations around campus. Many departments have EH&S managed recycle containers in their office admin/recycle areas. If your department or building does not have a battery bucket and you believe your department/building generates enough batteries to require one please submit a hazardous waste pickup request and note in the comments that you are requesting a bucket but don't have one to pick up.

List of common area battery recycle containers on campus:

All Residence Halls – 1 st Floor Recycle Kiosk	Arnold Dining – Front Desk	Burt Hall – Receiving
Cascade Hall – Public Safety	Cordley Hall – West Loading Dock	Facilities Shops
Gilbert Hall – Chem Stores	Kerr Admin – Recycle Kiosk 1 st floor	Magruder Hall – Receiving
McNary Dining – Front Desk	Valley Library – By Circulation Desk	West Dining – Front Desk

Note: Universal Waste refers to a specific set of hazardous waste items commonly used and disposed of by businesses and other non-households. Federal and state rules are meant to encourage and streamline management of these categories of waste. Batteries are one of these classes of universal waste. Different types of batteries contain chemicals and materials which may be harmful to people or the environment and need to be properly disposed of. OSU has programs in place, managed by EH&S, to assist the campus community with safely diverting these materials from the university hazardous waste stream into appropriate recycling. Batteries managed as universal waste can be recycled and avoid the expense and liability of being treated as hazardous waste.

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