

# PREVENT BATTERY FIRES

May 16, 2023, ACUA

**DO NOT DISCARD BATTERIES IN THE TRASH!**  
Bring them to the Public Works Facility!  
Call 609-625-6311 or Email [Publicworks@hamiltonatnj.gov](mailto:Publicworks@hamiltonatnj.gov)



**Lithium-ion batteries** are rechargeable batteries commonly found in cell phones, laptops, vacuum cleaners, and other electronic devices. Because they can easily plug in to recharge, it makes them an effective solution for the many portable electronic devices we use every day. Despite their benefits, **these batteries can be a fire hazard if not handled properly.**

Lithium-ion batteries can sometimes overcharge and overheat, which is why it's advised to unplug devices when fully charged and never charge devices overnight.

When the time comes to discard lithium-ion batteries, it is very important that residents and businesses dispose of these batteries through acceptable battery recycling programs. **Never throw a lithium-ion battery away in the trash!**

According to a recent Waste Dive article, there were **390 reported fire incidents at recycling centers across North America in 2022** – the highest reported on record. Here in Atlantic County, ACUA's collection trucks have experienced several fires due to lithium-ion batteries being thrown away in curbside bins.



Firefighters were called to put out a fire caused by a lithium-ion battery from a vacuum cleaner thrown away in curbside trash and picked up by ACUA.

To improve the current system, national industry organizations are working alongside state and federal lawmakers to establish better guidelines and requirements for disposal. At the federal level, they are proposing extended producer responsibility (EPR) laws that will require manufacturers to provide proper collection outlets. This is similar to what is currently done in New Jersey for electronic devices.

The **Hamilton Township Public Works Department** accepts lithium-ion batteries on the first Saturday of Every Month, which is our scheduled Electronic Waste Collection Drop Off Day; hours of operation are 9am–12pm. Additionally, the **ACUA** accepts lithium-ion batteries at its **Household Hazardous Waste Drop-offs** held throughout the year. There are also many battery drop-offs available at stores like Home Depot, Lowes, and Batteries and Bulbs stores.

For further information and images of these different types, and kinds, of batteries, please scan the Q/R code, to take you directly to [Call2Recycle.com](https://www.Call2Recycle.com).

❖❖ Standard alkaline manganese batteries typically used in toys, remote controls, flashlights, and more [Are Not Hazardous and Can Be Placed in Your Regular Trash](https://www.Call2Recycle.com).



CALL or EMAIL US FOR A GUIDE:

Ni-MH (Nickel Metal Hydride)



Nickel Metal Hydride performs well in high drain devices and can be recharged up to 1,000 times. It's cadmium-free, but can be pricey.

Ni-MH batteries can typically be found in cordless power tools, digital cameras, two-way radios and cordless phones.



Ni-Cd (Nickel Cadmium)



Nickel Cadmium is the least expensive of secondary/rechargeable batteries, and can be recharged up to 1,000 times. Cadmium can be toxic to the environment and should be recycled.

Ni-Cd can typically be found in cordless power tools, digital cameras, two-way radios and cordless phones.



SSLA/Pb (Small Sealed Lead Acid)



Small Sealed Lead Acid (SSLA/Pb) batteries are simple to manufacture and have one of the lowest discharge rates of any rechargeable battery.

SSLA/Pb can typically be found in emergency devices, emergency exit signs, security systems, mobility scooters and UPS back-ups.



Li-Ion (Lithium Ion)



Lithium Ion has excellent performance in high drain devices, though it can be considered expensive.

Li-Ion can typically be found in cell phones, laptops, two-way radios, and cordless power tools.



Primary/Single Use



Primary/Single-Use batteries cannot be recharged and must be disposed of once they wear out. Alkaline, lithium, silver oxide, zinc-air, zinc-carbon, and zinc-chloride, commonly known as AA, AAA, 9V, D-cell, and button cell are all types of primary batteries.

Primary/Single-Use batteries are most commonly used in low-drain devices, such as flashlights, clocks, watches, remote controls, and smoke detectors.

For proper handling, seal batteries in bags or tape terminals, and place in appropriate container (for example, the Call2Recycle collection box).