

Universal Waste Battery Procedure

I. Purpose:

To manage, control, recycle and document disposal of all batteries capable of being recycled.

II. Introduction:

All used batteries are considered hazardous and are classified as Universal Waste. Toxic materials included are heavy metal and corrosive properties of material batteries. This makes them unsuitable for disposal in the regular trash, because of contamination of surface and ground water. Batteries must be disposed of in a way that prevents release any Universal Waste or components of Universal Waste to the environment.

III. Batteries by type and category:

A. Ni-Cad – Nickel-Cadmium

Small sealed lead-acid batteries which are found in many common items in the business and home settings, including electronic equipment, cell phones, portable computers and emergency backup lighting. Most equipment that comes with rechargeable batteries probably uses Ni-Cad batteries. Some rechargeable batteries are lead-gel batteries, which will be handled the same way as Ni-Cad batteries.

B. Alkaline

Are commonly referred to as disposable or non-rechargeable and are often used in toys, flashlights, and some electronic equipment.

C. Button

These are found in watches, calculators, hearing aids, and other small electronic devices. These batteries often contain mercury, silver or lithium.

D. Lead-Acid

Lead-Acid batteries include most Automotive batteries. These batteries contain regulated amounts of lead and must be recycled. Most businesses require a trade-in when a new battery is purchased; otherwise a fee is assessed.

IV. Battery containment:

Batteries that show evidence of leakage or damage must be stored in a container that is closed, structurally sound, and compatible with the contact of the battery.

IV. Collection sites:

- Boyne/ Dental
- New Science Bldg.

- Administration
- Residence Halls
- Skutt Student Center

Summary: Used batteries generated at Creighton University fall under the domain of Universal Waste, are hazardous and are collected by Universal Waste personnel for recycling or disposal as hazardous waste. The goal is to keep batteries out of C.U. trash.