

# Batteries

## Why we care

Most batteries contain heavy metals, such as mercury, silver, lead, cadmium, lithium, and nickel, which can contaminate the environment when landfilled or incinerated. Recycling batteries keeps heavy metals out of landfills and the air, and using recovered plastic and metals to make new batteries saves resources.

## Simple, positive steps

- Choose plug-in products rather than battery-operated ones when possible.
- Purchase rechargeable rather than non-rechargeable batteries.
- Because of their hazardous ingredients and potential to explode, store all household batteries out of reach of children and pets and away from sources of heat.
- Take your household batteries to a depot for recycling.
  - Almost any retailer that sells lead-acid auto batteries is required by state law to accept used ones.
  - Metro has a database [Find a Recycler](#), showing where different types of batteries can be taken. Some depots will charge a small fee.
  - Lithium-ion batteries are accepted by a few retailers . Check the [Call2recycle](#) website to find a location near you.
- Sign up for [Ridwell](#), a service that will take your batteries and other hard-to-recycle items for a monthly fee.

*Questions or feedback? Contact Jeanne Roy at [jeanne@ecoschoolnetwork.org](mailto:jeanne@ecoschoolnetwork.org)*

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