

Disposing of Used Batteries

This procedure is for college generated batteries only. Please refer to Thurston County Solid Waste for guidelines on how to dispose of personal used batteries.

1. Used batteries may not go in the regular landfill garbage. Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) picks up and disposes of college generated used batteries at no charge to you.
2. You can collect used batteries for disposal in any suitable container. EHS takes the container with your batteries so choose a container that you don't want back. However choose a container that will be safe to carry even when full since batteries weigh a lot.
3. Place a completed Universal Waste- Batteries label on the container before you first start collecting batteries.
4. Batteries have to be sorted by type. You can either sort the batteries as you collect them or you can sort the batteries before EHS picks them up.
 - a. Types include alkaline, rechargeable, carbon zinc, lithium and small (<2 lb) lead acid batteries.
 - b. Different types of alkaline (9v, AA, AAA, C and D) can all go together.
 - c. Lemon, potato and similar batteries can go to compost and scrap metal.
 - d. Large (>2 lb) lead acid batteries are disposed of through Motor Pool.
5. Batteries over 9v and all lithium batteries need to have their terminals taped.
 - a. You have to tape them as you collect them.
6. Have EHS pick up your container every six months or when it is full, whichever comes first. This ensures we will meet regulatory time limits for disposal.

Battery rules frequently change. Please check back periodically to get the latest updates.