



Hazardous Waste Update

Disposal of Used or Spent lead-acid Batteries

Used or spent lead-acid batteries, such as car and light truck batteries, are classified as waste under BC's *Environmental Management Act*, and may also be considered hazardous waste under the Hazardous Waste Regulation (HWR) depending on how they are managed. They should not be put in your household garbage, but disposed of in an environmentally friendly way.

When is a used or spent lead-acid battery considered hazardous waste? In most cases, the Ministry considers lead-acid batteries to be hazardous waste as soon as the original user no longer has any use for them.

How should I dispose of used or spent lead-acid batteries?

You have several choices:

- Get in touch with the retailer or wholesaler that sold you the batteries and find out if they will take them from you. Participating retailers generally accept used batteries for free.
- Take them to a return collection facility registered with the Ministry. Contact your local municipality or regional district for the location nearest to you.
- Bring them to certain private metal recyclers that accept lead-acid batteries. In some cases, the recyclers will also pay for the batteries.
- Look for other local recycling options and locations by visiting the following websites:
 - The Recycling Council of BC: rbc.bc.ca/recyclepedia
 - The Stewardship Agencies of BC: bcrecycles.ca

What if I have questions?

- Go to the Ministry's "Product Stewardship" website for lead-acid batteries at <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/topic.page?id=A73831079C95415294444A09F377ECE5>
- Contact the Ministry at hazwaste@victoria1.gov.bc.ca