

# Factsheet



## Battery Disposal



**Australians use thousands of tonnes of batteries annually, with more than 18 million disposed of in Western Australia each year.**

Most batteries end up in landfill where the toxic metal contents leak and contaminate soil and groundwater. Batteries are classed as hazardous waste and should never be placed in your kerbside bins.

**Single use (primary) batteries** are typically used by toys, watches, clocks, smoke alarms, audiovisual equipment and remote controls. The overwhelming majority of batteries sold are disposable batteries which include alkaline, lithium, carbon, zinc and button batteries.

**Rechargeable (secondary) batteries** are commonly found in cordless drills, mobile phones, laptops, shavers and cameras. These batteries contain toxic materials (including cadmium, mercury and lead).

### Reduce your impact

- Minimise battery use by plugging portable appliances into power mains wherever possible.
- Rechargeable batteries have up to 32 times less impact on the environment than disposable batteries. Rechargeable batteries

are available from many major retailers including Bunnings, Dick Smith and JB Hifi. Each battery can be charged up to a thousand times – saving both money and waste.

### Correct Disposal

It is important to dispose of your batteries correctly so they don't end up in landfill. In Perth there are numerous battery drop off points ensuring your batteries are disposed of safely and then recycled.

You can find your nearest battery recycling bin via the Recycle Right app or [recycleright.wa.gov.au](http://recycleright.wa.gov.au).

After collection, batteries are sorted and sent to licensed recycling facilities in Australia, or overseas for processing.

Recycling battery components is complex and expensive due to the hazardous chemical contents. Plastics and metals are recovered and used to manufacture new batteries.

For more information visit [recycleright.wa.gov.au](http://recycleright.wa.gov.au), or download the Recycle Right App from the **iTunes** or **Google Play** stores.

