

Battery Recycling and Disposal Options – preliminary information

In response to inquiries to battery recycling and disposal options some general information is presented below. This is in draft form and not a policy of the organizers. We will update this page as new information becomes available. Where appropriate we encourage you to use the *Charge Up to Recycle!* sites for NiCd batteries (www.rbr.com). Lead Acid batteries can be accepted at most battery retailers. There is mixed information on the need to dispose of alkaline separately from household trash.

Lead Acid Batteries – Car, Truck, Motorcycle, Marine can be at most battery retailers, scrap metal dealers and other locations. Some outlets will buy them at a nominal fee. Precautions should be taken to avoid breakage, spills, sparks, completing the circuit between positive and negative.

Rechargeable Nickel Cadmium (NiCd) batteries – These batteries must be recycled. Rechargeable NiCd are commonly found in camcorders, laptop computers, cellular and cordless telephones, portable power tools and other devices. These batteries can be recycled at sites participating in the *Charge Up to Recycle !* program. For the nearest location call 1-800-8-BATTERY or www.rbr.com. Local outlets in the Midshore region include Radio Shack, Home Depot and Walmart.

Alkaline: Most alkaline flashlight batteries currently on the market apparently have less mercury in them than previous products. Therefore some industry representatives recommend disposal with regular solid waste as an appropriate option. We have contacted several companies that offer disposal and recycling services. One of these companies is Inmetco (www.inmetco.com (724) 758-2800). Common Household batteries are exempt from hazardous waste regulations and can therefore legally be disposed of with household trash.

Small Sealed Lead Acid Batteries (SSLA) commonly found in uninterrupted power sources, emergency lighting, alarm systems, and hospital equipment generally can be returned to the point of purchase to a reversed distribution network. For more information contact PRBA at 770-612-8826.

In general: Some literature recommends taping terminals with electrical tape and /or placing batteries in individual plastic bags to prevent short circuiting of the battery(ies). We also encourage residents to contact the manufacturer for guidance on disposal and recycling options for specific batteries.

Feel free to contact the Midshore Regional Recycling Program at 410-758-6605 for details and any updates as this information is reviewed and developed. Thank you for your patience as we address this issue.