The Secret Life of Batteries

How Batteries Get a Second Life

The Battery Network

Battery recycling helps recover valuable materials and gives used batteries a new purpose

1. Drop off & Collection

The journey starts with collection

Used batteries are dropped off and collected at thousands of sites nationwide. Then packaged, transported, and sorted by chemistry so they can be processed safely and responsibly through our network of approved vendors.

2. Sorting

3. Processing

4. Second Life

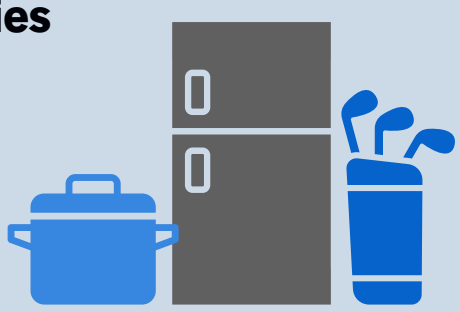
Different battery chemistries are recycled into different materials and products.

Rechargeable

Nickel-based batteries

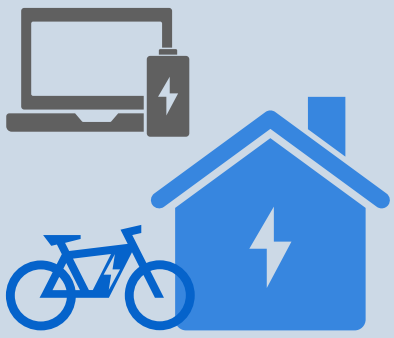
Ni-Cd, Ni-MH, & Ni-Zn

Stainless steel, silverware, tools, pots & pans, kitchen appliances, golf clubs, and new batteries.



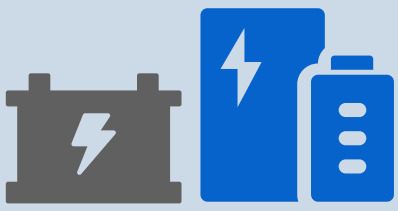
Lithium-ion batteries

New battery materials (e-bike batteries, electric vehicle batteries, smart phone batteries, laptop batteries) and home energy storage systems.



Lead-based batteries

New lead-based batteries and emergency backup power systems.

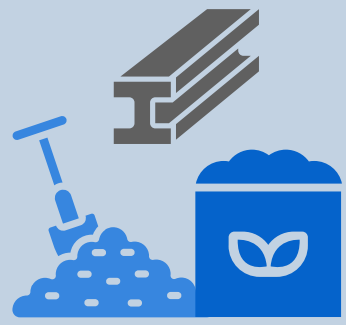


Primary (Single-Use)*

Alkaline batteries

AAA, AA, C, D, 9V

Steel and materials used in products such as sunscreen, fertilizer ingredients, roofing materials, and road aggregate.



Lithium primary batteries

Can become steel, industrial machinery parts, specialty metal products, electronics components, and new batteries.

*Primary (single-use) battery acceptance varies by state. Use our locator to learn what is accepted near you before recycling.

Safe battery recycling starts with you

Learn more about battery recycling and find a drop-off location near you

batterynetwork.org