



# Batteries



*Dry cell batteries contain an electrolyte in paste form, commonly alkaline, lithium-ion, and nickel-cadmium.*



*Wet cell batteries use a liquid electrolyte, commonly lead-acid or nickel-cadmium cells.*



## Why we should recycle:

- Nickel-cadmium batteries are potentially carcinogenic when exposed to extreme heat and moisture thus should not be disposed of in general waste.
- When batteries end up in landfill they can leach toxic metals, polluting land and water.
- Over 66% of batteries purchased every year in Australia are sent to landfill, making them the most common form of household hazardous waste.



## How recycling helps

- Battery acid can be recycled into sodium sulphate, which is used to manufacture laundry detergent, glass and textiles.
- Cadmium can be recycled back to battery manufacturers to be used again, creating a closed loop recycling system.



## What you can do

- Don't throw batteries in the general waste.
- Recycle old batteries.
- Buy rechargeable batteries. Rechargeable batteries last longer, can be used 100 times more than single-use batteries and divert harmful waste from entering landfills.
- To recycle DRY batteries at UQ, send in a sealed container via internal mail to:  
University Chemical Store,  
Cnr Glasshouse Road  
and Walcott St, St Lucia  
Campus.
- To recycle WET batteries at UQ, email **chemwaste@uq.edu.au** for collection.

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