

“Trash Talk” Beltrami County Solid Waste Education:

Household Battery Recycling and Disposal

Minnesota prohibits rechargeable batteries and products with non-removable rechargeable batteries from being disposed of in mixed municipal waste, this also includes Lithium and Lead Acid Batteries.

We do not accept batteries that are used for commercial applications, or batteries that come from a business. These can be brought to a retail store that accepts them or the business can use Call2Recycle.com to recycle their own batteries.

What is the problem?

Each year over two billion household batteries are purchased in the United States to power a variety of products. Some household batteries may contain toxic metals like mercury, lead, cadmium, and silver, which can contaminate our air and water when the batteries are incinerated or disposed of in a landfill. Eventually these metals can accumulate in living tissue and cause adverse health effects.

Lithium Battery Fires have become much too common in the Waste Industry. Between Beltrami County and Hubbard County we have some type of battery fire at least every 3 months, sometimes more often in the past couple of years. Beltrami County has been lucky because the fires have been isolated and have not been next to a large volume of fuel. These fires occur when batteries are not properly sorted and handled and become damaged, which alters the chemistry of the battery which makes it ignite.

Once a battery is used up or no longer useful, the battery's chemistry will determine how best to dispose of it. Look on the battery's label or packaging to identify what it is made of, then use this guide to identify the safe disposal method.

Step 1: Collect and sort your batteries by Type

Batteries that must be Recycled: Rechargeable Batteries, Lithium, and Lead Acid

***Alkaline batteries are safe to place in the trash.

Step 2: Tape all battery terminals with clear tape/or place each battery in a clear plastic bag

Step 3: Find a Battery Recycler: Electric Vehicle (EV) batteries bring back to dealership, Large Rechargeable (40Volts) or more please bring back to the

retailer. All others you can check with a local retail store (you may want to call first) or the Solid Waste Department will accept household batteries at one of the Beltrami County Transfer Stations or Remote Transfer Sites and place the battery in the battery recycle container located at each site.

For more information please check out our internet site:

<http://www.co.beltrami.mn.us/Departments/Solid%20Waste/Solid%20Waste.html>

Or MPCA www.pca.state.mn.us/hhw Or Call2Recycle www.call2recycle.com

Brian Olson, Beltrami County Solid Waste Director