



## QUICK TIPS: Used Batteries

Used batteries are a concentrated source of a few types of heavy metals, most commonly cadmium, lead, and mercury.

NYU collects and recycles used batteries as **Universal Waste**.



### Disposal Guidelines

- Collect used batteries in a leak-proof closeable container (ex. 1-gallon mayo jar or 5-gallon bucket). Containers should remain closed unless actively adding waste.
- Each type of battery (refer to Hazardous Batteries table) must have its own container and label. **DO NOT** mix different batteries within a container or use this container for other items meant for disposal.
- A label with the words "**Universal Waste**" must be affixed to the container. The accumulation start date and the type of battery must be clearly marked. Labels and containers can be obtained through the Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) website.
- Broken or leaking batteries are considered "**Hazardous Waste**" and must be collected as such. The broken or leaking battery must be collected in a separate container and labeled with an appropriate hazardous waste label. Labels can be obtained through the EHS website.
- EHS must be notified when the container is full or within one year of the accumulation date. Pickups occur on the first Tuesday of every month.

### Reminders

- The accumulation date is the date in which the first battery is added to the container. This date should be present on all labels.
- All containers must be disposed of within one year of the accumulation start date.



Need supplies, labels, or a waste pick up?  
Have other questions?  
Visit the EHS website



## Hazardous Batteries Examples

Battery Type	Common Use	Hazard
Alkaline*	Flashlights, Radios, Remote- Control Products, Calculators, Alarm Clocks	Non- Hazardous
Lead Acid	Car Batteries, Emergency Exit Signs, Fire Emergency Devices, Generators	Lead/Acid
Lithium-Ion/ Lithium Metal	Computers, Cameras, Cell Phones	Lithium
Mercuric Oxide	Medical Equipment	Mercury
Nickel-Cadmium/ Nickel Metal Hydride	Smoke Alarms, Cordless Power Tools, Two-Way Radios Small Generators	Cadmium
Silver Oxide	Calculators, Watches, Cameras	Silver
Zinc (Button)	Hearing Aids, Cameras	Mercury

\*Although alkaline batteries are a non-hazardous waste stream they should be collected for recycling.