



Minnesota  
Pollution  
Control  
Agency

# Motor Vehicle Batteries

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**M**otor vehicle batteries contain about 18 pounds of lead and about one gallon of corrosive, lead-contaminated sulfuric acid. When these batteries are dumped on the ground or in the trash they can pollute our lakes, rivers, and ground water.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, nearly 99 million wet-cell lead-acid car batteries are manufactured each year, and in 2006, 99 percent of the used batteries were recycled.

## Recycle used lead-acid motor vehicle batteries

Lead-acid batteries used in cars, boats, motorcycles, snowmobiles, golf carts, and other motor vehicles become spent or used when they no longer hold a charge. **In Minnesota, it is illegal to put these batteries in the trash.**

It is easy to recycle motor vehicle batteries, and it conserves valuable resources. When recycled, the lead is reused in new batteries and other products. The plastic battery casing is also recycled and the acid is neutralized.

If you need to store a battery before recycling it, keep it dry and store it in a leak-proof container. Always store batteries away from children and pets.

## Recycling locations

Take used batteries to a retailer, such as an auto parts store, discount store, or service station, for recycling. Under state law, all places that sell lead-acid batteries are required to accept up to five used batteries per consumer, free of charge, whether you are a customer or not.

When you buy a new motor vehicle battery, you're required to turn in your old battery for recycling. Otherwise, the retailer must charge a \$5 fee—it is the law! The retailer will refund the fee if you bring in the old battery with a receipt, within 30 days.

## Used hybrid vehicle batteries

All hybrid vehicle manufacturers use nickel metal hydride batteries in their vehicles. Manufacturers of plug-in hybrid modification kits typically use lithium ion batteries. The vehicle manufacturers, the plug-in kit manufacturers, and the battery manufacturers are jointly responsible for managing end of life rechargeable batteries under Minn. Stat. §§ 115A.9157 and 325E.125. Both of these battery types are recyclable. So ask your retailer, or contact the manufacturer for recycling instructions.