



Selling Lead-acid Batteries

Guidance for Minnesota retailers & wholesalers of lead-acid batteries

Lead-acid batteries contain lead or lead-plated grids immersed in an acid electrolyte. They are sold at hardware, automotive and general merchandise retailers as well as at automotive, marine, and small engine repair shops.

If managed improperly, lead from the spent batteries can contaminate land and water. Minnesota retailers and wholesalers of lead-acid batteries must take specific actions to help citizens and businesses manage lead-acid batteries properly.

Are you a lead-acid battery retailer or wholesaler?

You are a lead-acid battery *retailer* if you sell lead-acid batteries directly to citizens or businesses for their use or if you supply and install lead acid batteries in citizen or business vehicles or equipment.

You are a lead-acid battery *wholesaler* if you sell lead-acid batteries to other businesses for resale or installation in vehicles or equipment.

Requirements for lead-acid battery retailers

Ensure you meet these requirements:

1. **Post a notice to customers.**

Post the sign approved by the Minnesota Department of Commerce or your own notice. A printable copy of the approved sign is attached to this fact sheet. If you post your own notice, it must be at least 8½ x 11 inches in size, include the universal recycling symbol and state:

NOTICE: USED BATTERIES. This retailer is required to accept your used lead acid batteries, EVEN IF YOU DO NOT PURCHASE A BATTERY. When you purchase a new battery, you will be charged an additional amount of at least \$10 unless you return a used battery within 30 days. It is a crime to put a motor vehicle battery in the garbage.

2. **Charge purchasers a deposit.**

Except for boat motor batteries sold at the same time as the boat motor, charge a deposit of at least ten dollars (\$10.00) for each lead-acid battery purchased if the consumer does not return a used battery at the time of purchase.

3. **Refund the deposit.**

If a consumer returns a used battery within 30 days of purchasing a lead-acid battery, refund the deposit to the consumer. If the consumer does not return a used battery within 30 days of purchasing a lead-acid battery, you may keep the deposit.

4. **Accept lead-acid batteries from consumers without charge.**

Accept up to five lead-acid batteries from any consumer at one time regardless of whether the consumer purchased a battery from you. You may not charge to accept these batteries.

5. **Properly store used batteries.**

Ensure your used battery storage fully complies with the universal waste requirements or the lead-acid battery requirements in the Minnesota Rules. See MPCA hazardous waste fact sheet #4.62, [Managing Universal Wastes](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/w-hw4-62.pdf), at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/w-hw4-62.pdf>.

6. Recycle batteries.

Ensure all lead-acid batteries you collect are recycled.

7. Include information in newspaper advertisements.

Include the following text in all newspaper advertisements you purchase that market lead-acid batteries for sale:

At least \$10 additional charge unless a used lead acid battery is returned.
Improper disposal of a lead-acid battery is a crime.

Requirements for lead-acid battery wholesalers

Ensure you meet these requirements:

1. Accept lead-acid batteries from your customers.

Accept any number of lead-acid batteries from retailers and distributors to whom you sell lead-acid batteries. You may charge a reasonable fee to accept these batteries.

2. Properly store used batteries.

Ensure your used battery storage fully complies with the universal waste requirements or the lead-acid battery requirements in the Minnesota Rules. See MPCA hazardous waste fact sheet #4.62, [Managing Universal Wastes](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/w-hw4-62.pdf), at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/w-hw4-62.pdf>.

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More information

Guidance and requirements in this fact sheet were compiled from Minnesota Statutes, Chapters §115A, §239, and §325E, and Minnesota Rules, Chapter 7045. To review the Minnesota Statutes and Rules, visit the Office of the Revisor of Statutes at <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/pubs>.

Your metropolitan county and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) have staff available to answer waste management questions. For more information, contact your metropolitan county hazardous waste office or your nearest MPCA regional staff. For information about waste reduction, contact the Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (MnTAP).

Metro County Hazardous Waste Offices

Anoka	763-422-7093
Carver	952-361-1800
Dakota	952-891-7557
Hennepin	612-348-3777
Ramsey	651-266-1199
Scott.....	952-496-8475
Washington.....	651-430-6655
Websites	http://www.co.[county].mn.us

Minnesota Technical Assistance Program

Toll free.....	1-800-247-0015
Metro	612-624-1300
Website.....	http://www.mntap.umn.edu

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Toll free (all offices).....	1-800-657-3864
Brainerd.....	218-828-2492
Detroit Lakes	218-847-1519
Duluth	218-723-4660
Mankato	507-389-5977
Marshall	507-537-7146
Rochester	507-285-7343
St. Paul	651-296-6300
Willmar	320-214-3786
Website	http://www.pca.state.mn.us

Small Business Environmental Assistance

Toll free	1-800-657-3938
Metro	651-282-6143
Website	http://www.pca.state.mn.us/sbeap/



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MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF
commerce .weights & measures



Minnesota Pollution
Control Agency

Questions: 651-296-6300 | Toll free and TDD 1-800-657-3864