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BATTERY RECYCLING 101

Top Tips for Recycling Dry Cell Batteries

TRENTON, N.J., October 22, 2018 – In today’s world, everything runs on batteries. They’re in things we use every day. Inevitably though, they run out of power and the age-old question comes up – what do you do with your spent batteries? In the past they ended up in a junk drawer, an old coffee can in the garage, or even in the trash. But, you can recycle batteries with a few extra precautions? Here are four tips to safely handle and recycle your “dead” batteries:

- **Individually bag or tape the battery terminals** – Just because a battery stops powering your device doesn’t mean it’s dead. The battery only seems dead because it no longer has the voltage needed to power the item. In fact, there is still voltage left and therefore it requires a little TLC in the recycling process. By applying adhesive tape to the battery terminals or individually bagging each cell, you stop the chance of the remaining voltage in the battery making a connection and causing a safety hazard.
- **Store batteries in a cool, dry place** – Batteries and inclement weather don’t mix. Always store used batteries in a plastic container, avoid metal and keep them dry. Batteries left exposed to extreme heat for long periods of time can deform, leak or even explode.
- **Used batteries don’t keep** – All good things come to an end and generally don’t get any better with age. The same applies to used batteries. Professional recyclers like TerraCycle Regulated Waste suggest that used batteries should be recycled within one to six months of expiring. Beyond that, corrosion becomes a risk factor.
- **My battery has sprung a leak! Now what?** – In the case of damaged or leaking batteries, never mix them with their uncompromised counterparts. This can cause all the batteries to become contaminated and hazardous. Simply secure them in an individual bag appropriate for their size and weight, label it “leaking batteries” and store them in your recycling receptacle with the other spent batteries until you recycle the batch.

“Batteries are so common it’s easy to forget that they’re full of chemicals that could potentially be harmful to the environment if allowed to enter our landfills,” said Gary Casola, technical sales specialist at TerraCycle Regulated Waste. “Our canister is a UN certified insulated container, which includes tape for the terminals, as well as a pre-paid shipping label used to return the canister when its full. At TerraCycle Regulated Waste we pride ourselves on our commitment to the environment and providing our customers with efficient, cost effective solutions to their regulated waste streams.”

For more information about TerraCycle Regulated Waste or to speak with a representative about the EasyPak® battery recycling options, visit www.terracycle.com

About TerraCycle Regulated Waste

TerraCycle is an innovative waste management company with a mission to eliminate the idea of waste®. The TerraCycle Regulated Waste division offers environmentally-sound recycling of universal and regulated waste. From innovative EasyPak fluorescent bulb shipping boxes with integrated mercury seals to the BulbEater® series of bulb crushers, TerraCycle Regulated Waste provides the most complete line of lamp recycling options. Medwaste and sharps recycling programs by TerraCycle Regulated Waste utilize decontamination systems that eliminate incineration and allow for the reclamation of valuable materials from syringes and vials. TerraCycle has won over 200 awards for sustainability and has donated over \$25 million to schools and charities since its founding 15 years ago. To learn more about TerraCycle or get involved in its recycling programs, please visit www.terracycle.com.