



# IDENTIFYING & SAFELY MANAGING Household Batteries

Batteries come in various shapes, sizes, and chemistries – which sometimes makes identifying them confusing.

Identifying batteries is important because some contain metals such as mercury and lead, which pose a threat to human health or the environment if improperly managed. The table below identifies batteries commonly found in households.

Each of the batteries listed is recyclable, but proper management depends on what services are available in your community. **Scan the QR code** to learn more.



BATTERY TYPE	USES AND DESCRIPTION
<p><b>Alkaline &amp; Zinc-Carbon</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single-use</li> <li>• Used in alarm clocks, calculators, flashlights, remote controls, radios, and children's toys</li> <li>• Include 9-volt, AA, AAA, C, D, and some button cells</li> </ul>
<p><b>Button-Cell or Coin</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Button batteries - single-use; coin batteries - rechargeable</li> <li>• Used in watches, calculators, keyless entry systems, hearing aids, laser pointers, glucometers, and LED accessories</li> <li>• Tiny, shiny, round, silver-colored</li> <li>• Button batteries - varying chemistries including silver oxide, alkaline, lithium, and zinc air; coin batteries - alkaline or lithium</li> <li>• FYI: These small batteries can cause serious injuries if swallowed.</li> </ul>

Continued on the back \*SOURCE: EPA



# Identifying & Safely Managing Household Batteries, Continued

BATTERY TYPE	USES AND DESCRIPTION
<p><b>Lithium (Single-Use)</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single-use</li> <li>• Used in cameras, watches, remote controls, and handheld games</li> <li>• Include AA, AAA, and 9-volt</li> </ul>
<p><b>Lithium-Ion (Li-ion)</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rechargeable</li> <li>• Used in cell phones, power tools, cameras, laptops, toys, e-cigarettes, appliances, tablets, and e-readers</li> <li>• FYI: Li-ion batteries are more easily damaged and volatile than other batteries. If improperly charged, stored, disposed of, or damaged, they can catch fire or explode.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Lithium Polymer (LiPo)</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rechargeable</li> <li>• Used in remote control devices (e.g., airplanes, cars, drones) where weight is a factor</li> </ul>
<p><b>Nickel Cadmium (Ni-Cd)</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rechargeable</li> <li>• Used in cordless power tools, remote control airplanes, cars and boats, photographic equipment, flashlights, and toys</li> <li>• Include AAA, C, D, and several multi-cell sizes equivalent to 9-volt</li> </ul>
<p><b>Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH)</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rechargeable</li> <li>• Used in cell phones, power tools, cameras, and two-way radios</li> <li>• Include AA, AAA, C, D, 9-volt, and specialty sizes</li> </ul>
<p><b>Nickel-Zinc (Ni-Zn)</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rechargeable</li> <li>• Used in cameras, wireless keyboards, and other small electronics</li> <li>• Include AA and C</li> </ul>
<p><b>Small-Sealed Lead Acid (Pb)</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rechargeable</li> <li>• Used in mobility scooters, children's toy cars, emergency lighting, and hospital equipment</li> <li>• Most commonly 12-volt</li> </ul>

\*SOURCE: EPA