

RBRC Battery Recycling Program

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I know which rechargeable batteries can be recycled?

If it's rechargeable, it's recyclable! The following rechargeable battery chemistries can be recycled:

Nickel Cadmium (Ni-Cd)
Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH)
Lithium-ion (Li-ion)
Small Sealed Lead (Pb)

Rechargeable batteries are commonly found in cordless power tools, cellular and cordless phones, laptop computers, digital cameras, two-way radios, camcorders, and remote control toys. Look for the Battery Recycling Seals on the battery. The RBRC program does not accept alkaline or non-rechargeable batteries.



Who is RBRC?

RBRC (Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation) is a non-profit, public service organization created by the rechargeable power industry and dedicated to the recycling of rechargeable batteries and cell phones. The RBRC public education campaign and rechargeable battery and cell phone recycling program - *Call2Recycle™* - is the result of the industry's determination to conserve natural resources and prevent rechargeable batteries and cell phones from entering the solid waste stream.



How are the rechargeable batteries and cell phones recycled?

Retailers, businesses, communities and public agencies send the collected batteries and cell phones to a recycling facility for processing. A thermal recovery process reclaims the metals (nickel, iron, cadmium, lead, and cobalt) from the batteries and prepares them for use in new products such as new batteries and stainless steel. Cell phones are refurbished and resold when possible. All rechargeable batteries from cell phones are recycled. Portion of the proceeds received from the resale of phones will benefit select charities.



Can alkaline (non-rechargeable) batteries be recycled?

RBRC only recycles rechargeable, dry cell batteries. The good news is in 1996, U.S. legislation was signed that required alkaline manufacturers to phase out the use of mercury in their batteries. For more information about alkaline battery recycling, please contact the alkaline industry or your local community solid waste department.



Why should I recycle rechargeable batteries and cell phones?

Consumers use an average of six wireless products in their day-to-day lives. The average cell phone is replaced (or upgraded) every 18 to 24 months. That's a lot of rechargeable batteries and cell phones. When it's time to retire your old cell phones or replace your rechargeable batteries, don't forget to recycle them. You'll help preserve natural resources and keep discarded products out of landfills.



How is the program funded?

Members of the rechargeable battery and portable electronic product industry fund rechargeable battery recycling through the licensing of RBRC's Battery Recycling Seals. Cell phone recycling is partially funded by the resale of refurbished cell phones.



Who do I contact if I have any questions?

You can email RBRC, recycling@rbrc.com, or call RBRC toll free at (877) 723-1297 with questions about the program, to sign up, or to order program materials. You can also find rechargeable battery recycling drop-off locations near you by visiting www.rbrc.org online.