

SWANCC Battery Recycling Program Elgin Recycling, 8-1-2018



Elgin Recycling will be managing SWANCC's **Battery Recycling Program**. Household batteries, both alkaline and rechargeable chemistries can be dropped off at one of their locations below. **Batteries will no longer be collected at the agency's transfer station!**

Batteries should be from individuals, not collected in aggregate from schools, businesses or municipalities. Check ID's for proof of residency. Thank you for your cooperation!

Elgin Recycling is capable of handling batteries collected in 5-gallon buckets or in 55-gallon drums, if the drums are on pallets. Five-gallon buckets can be purchased at Home Depot and if you need a 55-gal drum, let Brett know, and one can be picked up from Elgin Recycling.

Program coordinators – relay to staff that the terminals (ends) of rechargeable batteries should be taped prior to bringing them to Elgin Recycling. **Do Not** mix sump pump, lead-acid car or boat batteries with household batteries – or any other type of material that will contaminate this stream! If you would like to recycle sealed lead acid batteries with Elgin Recycling call for pricing and packaging best practices.

- **Why is it prudent to tape the terminal (ends) of a rechargeable battery?**

When battery chemistries are mixed together, sparks can result in causing a fire. Taping the terminals or ends of Lithium, NiMh and NiCad batteries reduces the chance of creating a fire hazard.

Prior to dropping off batteries at the following locations, email Brett Barton at bbarton@elginrecycling.com to notify him. Or his phone number is 224-293-6583.

Battery Drop-Off Locations for SWANCC Communities

Elgin Recycling
145 South Weiler Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60005
Mon-Fri 7:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.
Sat 8:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.

Elgin Recycling
86 Prairie Parkway
Gilberts, IL 60136
Mon-Fri 7:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.
Sat 8:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.

FAQ's

- **Can alkaline batteries be disposed of in the garbage? Yes!**

“According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, household alkaline batteries, AA, AAA, D, 9V, etc., are benign by design, haven't contained mercury or other heavy metals for over 20 years, and are approved to be put in the trash. However, rechargeable batteries contain heavy metals and mercury and should be recycled. Visit <http://www.swancc.org/batteries> for companies, gas stations and auto parts stores that accept lead acid and other large batteries.”

While most hazardous wastes that are ignitable, reactive, corrosive or toxic in America are regulated in America under Subtitle C of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), Congress developed an exclusion for household waste. Under this exclusion, found in [Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 261.4](#), wastes generated by **normal household activities** (e.g., routine house and yard maintenance) are excluded from the definition of hazardous waste. Specifically, wastes covered by the household hazardous waste exclusion must satisfy two criteria:

1. The waste must be generated by individuals on the premise of a temporary or permanent residence, and
2. The waste stream must be composed primarily of materials found in wastes generated by consumers in their homes.

The IEPA HHW facilities haven't accepted alkaline batteries or latex paint for years due to their benign nature. More at <http://epa.illinois.gov/topics/waste-management/waste-disposal/household-hazardous-waste/index>.

Questions? Agency Website: [swancc.org](http://www.swancc.org)

Contact: Mary S. Allen, SWANCC Recycling and Education Director
(847) 724-9205, ext. 204 Email: mary@swancc.org

Contact: Dave Van Vooren, SWANCC Executive Director
(847) 724-9205, ext. 202 Email: dvv@swancc.org