



Department of Environmental Conservation

Lead-acid Battery Recycling

Get a Jump on It!

If you have a dead battery, you should know that it is now illegal to dispose of the battery in your trash. Most of us use lead-acid batteries in our cars, trucks, and recreational vehicles. With use, these batteries run down and eventually die. If not properly handled, lead-acid batteries can leak contaminants into soil and water.

Instead, you must take your dead battery for recycling to a retail store, distributor, or battery recycling facility.

By law, retailers must accept used batteries from customers and distributors must accept used batteries from their retailers.

New York State
Department of Environmental Conservation

MARIO M. CUOMO, Governor

THOMAS C. JORLING, Commissioner

When purchasing a new lead-acid battery:

- You can give your used battery for recycling to a retailer at the time you purchase a new one.
- The retailer will charge you a \$5 return incentive payment if you do not return a used battery when buying a replacement.
- The retailer who sold you the battery will refund the \$5 payment if you return a used battery within 30 days of the purchase date.

Retailers and distributors must:

- Accept free of charge up to two used batteries per month from any individual.
- Post signs displaying the universal recycling symbol and stating the following:

**IT IS ILLEGAL TO
DISCARD VEHICLE BATTERIES.
STATE LAW REQUIRES US TO
ACCEPT VEHICLE BATTERIES
FREE OF CHARGE
FOR RECYCLING.**

Retailers can legally keep unredeemed payments.

For further information about lead-acid battery recycling, contact your nearest DEC regional office.

- Region 1: (516) 751-2617
- Region 2: (718) 432-4991
- Region 3: (914) 255-5453
- Region 4: (518) 332-0680
- Region 5: (518) 891-1317
- Region 6: (315) 785-2513
- Region 7: (315) 426-7531
- Region 8: (716) 226-2466
- Region 9: (716) 847-4535



Or contact:

Bureau of Waste Reduction and Recycling
Division of Solid Waste
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
50 Wolf Road
Albany, New York 12233-4015

Lead acid (3/91)