



BATTERY RECYCLING

Battery recycling is a recycling activity aimed at reducing the number of batteries being disposed as municipal solid waste. Batteries contain a number of heavy metals and toxic chemicals; their dumping has raised concern over risks of soil contamination and water pollution.

The main objective for recycling batteries is to prevent hazardous materials from entering landfills. Lead acid and nickel-cadmium batteries are of special concern, and although Li-ion is less harmful, the aim is to include all batteries in the recycling programs. Do not store old lead acid batteries in households where children play. Simply touching the lead poles can be harmful.

What happens to batteries and cellphones after you drop them off at a Call2Recycle® collection site? They begin a fascinating journey through the recycling process, with the metal and chemical by-products eventually winding up in new products and the remaining waste safely disposed of according to international recycling standards.

Call2Recycle follows three simple steps when recycling batteries and cellphones:

1. **Collection:** Retail stores, small and large businesses, cities, towns and government agencies collect batteries (up to 5 kg) and cellphones at their locations. Collected items are then shipped to Call2Recycle partners, such as Retrieval Technologies, Newalta and Laurentide Re-Sources.
2. **Sorting:** Retrieval Technologies, Newalta and Laurentide Re-Sources receive the batteries at their warehouses, record details about the weight and battery types of the shipment; then separate the batteries by chemistry. Cellphones are sent to the Wireless Alliance for recycling.
3. **Process and Recovery:** The batteries are now ready to be processed. Specific chemistry batteries are shipped to appropriate specialty processors. The processors extract usable chemicals and metals to be used in the manufacture of new products. Cellphones are either refurbished and resold or recycled, with the proceeds used to fund the cellphone collection program and educational outreach. Waste products are responsibly and safely disposed of according to Responsible Recycling (R2) and Basel Action Network (BAN) standards. All recycling occurs in North America, and nothing is disposed of in a landfill. No waste materials from the recycling process are exported out of the country.