

Be Battery Smart

Batteries are every day, everywhere essentials.

Batteries come in various types and sizes to fit different products including flashlights, toys, smoke detectors, laptops, smart phones and watches, TV remotes, electronic games, e-bikes and scooters, and more. If damaged or improperly charged, stored, disposed of or recycled, batteries can harm you and others.

Here are some general rules.

- **Always follow the manufacturer's directions on your battery.**
- **Store single-use (disposable) batteries in original packaging.** Store rechargeable batteries in a cool, dry place.
- **Do not store household batteries with other metal objects** including staples and loose change.
- **Store all batteries out of sight and reach of children.**
- **Do not place rechargeable batteries in your household garbage or recycling container.** Rechargeable batteries such as lithium-ion batteries (used in laptops, tablets, and many children's toys and devices) contain heavy metals. Batteries also can explode and catch fire.
- **Batteries should be recycled properly.** Consumers are encouraged to recycle alkaline batteries, but can be disposed of in household garbage. Both alkaline and rechargeable batteries can be recycled at specific sites and/or special collection programs.



Visit des.sc.gov/bebatterysmart to learn more.



The **Be Battery Smart** outreach campaign is a partnership between the S.C. Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) and the Recycled Materials Association (ReMA).

