



South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

Be Battery Smart

CRA Conference

April 9, 2024



TAKE CHARGE

BE BATTERY SMART



**Batteries are
everyday
essentials.**

Often overlooked, however,
is the simple fact that
**batteries can be a
hidden household
hazard.**

If improperly installed, charged, stored, used, damaged, or disposed of, some batteries can catch fire or explode, putting your family and others (e.g., workers) at risk.

If swallowed, button and coin batteries can cause injuries and death.



Also often overlooked are the **recycling opportunities for batteries - particularly rechargeable batteries -** including the most popular rechargeable, **lithium-ion batteries.**





To address these issues, **DHEC**, in partnership with the **Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI)**, developed the **"Take Charge! Be Battery Smart" outreach campaign** to raise awareness of both the **safety concerns** and the **recycling opportunities** that are available and growing in number.





TAKE CHARGE

BE BATTERY SMART

Certain batteries require extra caution. Lithium-ion batteries, for example, **are easy to puncture and can cause fires.**



Button or coin batteries – commonly found in products including toys, **pose deadly risks to children**. If swallowed or placed in the nose or ears, **they can cause severe injury or death**.



All batteries – **both single-use and rechargeable** – can be **dangerous to your health and home** if you do not follow the manufacturer's instructions.



Installation

- **Purchase batteries and devices that have been certified** by UL or another independent safety testing agency.
- **Install properly.** If you do not, the battery can overheat.
- **Do not let children install batteries.**
- **Do not mix old batteries with new or rechargeable batteries with non-rechargeable.**

Use

- **Stop using a device if the battery shows signs of damage** (e.g., unusual odor, change in color, leaking, hissing, cracking, popping sounds).
- **Do not let children take battery-powered devices to bed.** Burns and other injuries may occur if the battery leaks or overheats.
- **Check children's devices to ensure batteries are installed correctly.**

Charging

- **Always use the charger the device came with** or one recommended by the manufacturer.
- **Always plug directly into a wall electrical outlet.**
- **Place the device or battery charger on a non-flammable surface** during charging.
- **Stay away from flammables** (e.g., pillows, blankets, sheets, clothing, sofas, curtains).

Charging

- **Charge your device to room temperature where you can see it, but not near the primary exit of a room.** Left unattended, a device with a defective battery could overheat and catch fire. A smoke alarm is an excellent safety tool.
- **Do not continue to charge the battery once it is fully charged.**
- **If a battery fire occurs, go outside, call 9-1-1, and stay outside.** “Fire Safe SC: A Community Risk Reduction Program” provides additional information.



Storage

- **Keep batteries stored in a dry location at room temperature and away from heat, anything flammable, and direct sunlight.**
- **Keep batteries out of sight and reach of children.**
- **Remove and safely store batteries from devices that you will not use for a long time** (e.g., seasonal decorations, old toys).
- **Store expired batteries in a non-metal container** until they can be recycled.
- **Tape the terminals of expired batteries or place each battery in a plastic bag until it can be recycled.** Terminals that rub against each other could cause a spark.

End-of-Life Management

- **Remove rechargeable batteries before recycling or disposing of a device.**
- **Do not place batteries in your household trash or recycling container.**
- **Recycle properly.** To learn how and where, visit scdhec.gov/recycleheresc.

Recycle Batteries Properly

South Carolina residents have **several options with more recycling infrastructure** on the way.



Resources

BE BATTERY SMART

IT'S GOOD TO BE A KNOW-IT-ALL



Got a tablet, laptop, hand-held video game, smart watch, or cell phone?

Rechargeable lithium-ion (LI-ion) batteries supply power to all of those devices and more.

If improperly charged, stored, used, thrown away, or recycled, these batteries can catch fire or explode.

Be Battery Smart.

- 1 Always follow the manufacturer's instructions. Different devices may have different requirements.
- 2 Never charge a device under your pillow, on your bed, or on a couch.
- 3 Don't overcharge devices or leave them charging overnight. Unplug them once they are fully charged.
- 4 Don't use batteries that are swollen, leaking, dented, or show other signs of damage.
- 5 Never place batteries in your household garbage or recycling cart. Recycle properly.

bebatterysmart.com

The Be Battery Smart outreach campaign is a partnership between the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) and the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI).





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IDENTIFYING & SAFELY MANAGING Household Batteries

Batteries come in various shapes, sizes, and chemistries – which sometimes makes identifying them confusing.

Identifying batteries is important because some contain metals such as mercury and lead, which pose a threat to human health or the environment if improperly managed. The table below identifies batteries commonly found in households.

Each of the batteries listed is recyclable, but proper management depends on what services are available in your community. To learn more, visit bebatterysmart.com.

BATTERY TYPE	USES AND DESCRIPTION
<p>Alkaline & Zinc-Carbon</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single-use • Used in alarm clocks, calculators, flashlights, remote controls, and children's toys • Include 9-volt, AA, AAA, C, D, and some button cells
<p>Button-Cell or Coin</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Button batteries - single-use; coin batteries - rechargeable • Used in watches, calculators, keyless entry systems, hearing aids, pointers, glucometers, and LED accessories • Tiny, shiny, round, silver-colored • Button batteries - varying chemistries including silver oxide, lithium, and zinc air; coin batteries - alkaline or lithium • FYI: These small batteries can cause serious injuries if swallowed. Learn more at bebatterysmart.com.

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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.
- Never place ANY batteries (rechargeable nor alkaline) 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. Rechargeable and alkaline batteries can be recycled at specific sites and/or special collection programs.

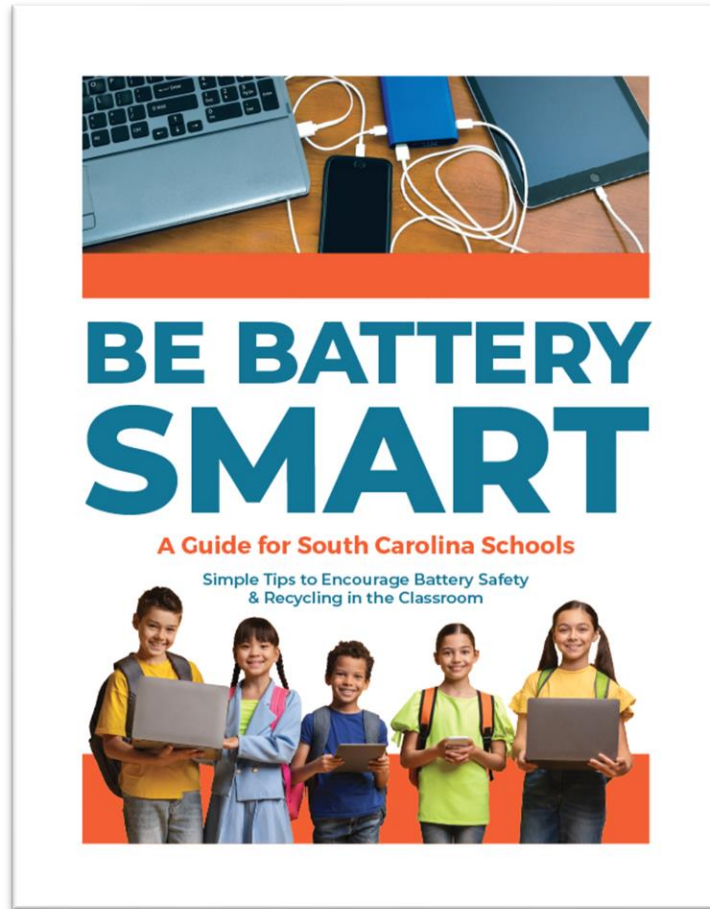
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Resources





South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control



**Palmetto
Poison Control Center**

Learn more about the **Be Battery Smart** campaign, visit **BeBatterySmart.com**.



South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

Thank you!

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BeBatterySmart.com

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