

Battery Collection Fact Sheet

June 2021

Call2Recycle was established in 1994 by five battery manufacturing companies to provide battery collection and recycling services for rechargeable batteries. The program is national and is now funded by over 300 battery and battery-powered product manufacturers.

What Types of Batteries Are Collected?

Call2Recycle was designed to manage and recycle **rechargeable batteries** such as those commonly found in cordless power tools, cordless phone, laptops, cellphones, cameras, two-way radios, biomedical equipment and more.



Rechargeable

Some locations also choose to include **single-use batteries**, such as those commonly found in remote controls, car keyless entry remotes, watches, pacemakers, hearing aids, memory backup fire alarm devices, toys, and others, and include AA, AAA, 9V, C, and D cell batteries. The volume of single-use batteries collected can be substantial, filling boxes more quickly than if only rechargeable batteries are collected.



Single-Use

What Types of Batteries Are Not Accepted?

Batteries weighing more than 11lbs; wet cell batteries (composed of a liquid), such as car or boat batteries; lithium-ion rechargeable batteries over 300-watt hours; lithium primary batteries with over 25 grams of lithium content, and/or any batteries that do not fit in a Call2Recycle collection box.

More information, including the *Battery Recycling Guide* can be found at: <https://www.call2recycle.org/what-can-i-recycle/>. More information on the recycling of collected batteries, including the *The Secret Life of Batteries* can be found at: <https://www.call2recycle.org/explore-the-secret-life-of-batteries/>.

What Do the Collection Boxes Look Like?

Call2Recycle display boxes are used for both collecting and shipping batteries. Whole cellphones can also be collected in Call2Recycle boxes. The box when closed for shipping measures 12.75 inches square and 8.75 inches high. The counter-top display kit includes all packing materials to safely collect and ship batteries and cellphones for recycling. Features include:

- Patented flame retardant box liner
- Holds 40-50 lbs. of mixed batteries and cellphones
- U.S. DOT Special Permit 14849 to comply with transport regulations
- Pre-paid shipping and recycling



What Are the Responsibilities?

Facilities that collect batteries for recycling do have some responsibilities. Foremost is the need to sort through the collected batteries prior to shipment and ensure terminal protection for certain categories of batteries¹ such as lithium-ion batteries. In recent years, lithium-ion batteries have caused fires because their terminals have made contact with metal or another battery. Therefore, it is essential that terminals are protected prior to shipment. Terminal protection means the battery is placed in its own plastic bag and/or the terminals are covered with a non-conductive tape (clear packing tape, electrical tape, or duct tape only). Other types of tape such as masking, painters, or regular “Scotch”™ tape are not appropriate and cannot be used. The Call2Recycle box kits come with some plastic bags and some facilities ask users to put each battery in a bag before placing it in the box.

All locations that want to collect batteries must delegate at least one person to be responsible for the Call2Recycle box, sorting the batteries and properly protecting the terminals on lithium-ion and the other specified batteries, and preparing the box for shipment. That person must complete a short (minutes) online training and take a quick quiz. Facilities that wish to receive Call2Recycle boxes must first coordinate through NHDES with Call2Recycle regarding the safety requirements.

More information on collection, sorting and terminal protection, and shipping, including the *Box Shipping Guidelines* and *Minimal Terminal Protection Quick Reference Guide for Boxes*, can be found in the “Box Shipping” area of <https://www.call2recycle.org/safety/collections-shipping/>.

What Does it Cost?

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) has a limited number of Call2Recycle boxes to provide for FREE to organizations and businesses in rural northern New Hampshire². However, once a participating location runs out of their set of free boxes, the facility would need to purchase additional boxes in order to continue the collection program. Each box costs \$65.00 (or 2 for \$115) and includes shipment to a recycling facility using a prepaid, pre-addressed shipping label. More information is available at: <https://www.call2recycle.org/store/>. To obtain **free** Call2Recycle battery collection boxes and coordinate with Call2Recycle on safety training, please contact Cynthia Nelson at NHDES at cynthia.l.nelson@des.nh.gov or (603) 271-6460.

¹ Lithium-ion and lithium primary; button/coin cells; small sealed lead acid (SSLA); alkaline & carbon zinc that are greater than 12 Volts; & nickel batteries that are greater than 9 volts

² Call2Recycle boxes are provided by the Northeast Waste Management Officials’ Association (NEWMOA) through a grant provided by the United States Department of Agriculture solid waste management grant program. More information about NEWMOA is available at: www.newmoa.org.