

AAA/CAA Battery Recycling Fact Sheet

Batteries are hazardous.

- Lead-acid batteries are considered hazardous material. Anyone handling a battery should wear protective eyewear and gloves. Proper handling prevents injuries. Because they can leak and emit hydrogen gas, batteries should not be exposed to an open flame.
- If improperly stored, a battery may leak, causing sulfuric acid burns and even explosions. Dumping an old battery can also hurt your pocketbook. Many states hand out tough fines and jail time for discarding lead-acid batteries anywhere other than an authorized collection or recycling center.

AAA replaces batteries on the go and makes it easy to dispose of batteries responsibly.

- For 20 years, AAA has dispatched mobile units to test batteries, and install new batteries on the spot, if requested. AAA and CAA clubs have helped members recycle more than 2 million batteries through the AAA Mobile Battery Service and annual Great Battery Roundup programs.

Batteries are a recycling success story.

- An automotive battery contains about 21 pounds of lead, three pounds of plastic and one gallon of sulfuric acid. When a spent battery is recycled, lead is re-smelted into new battery plates, acid is neutralized and reclaimed and plastic is used to make new battery cases.
- The lead-acid battery industry was an early innovator of “closed loop” recycling and remains a leader in this efficient, economical process. This process reclaims materials from spent batteries and uses them in the production of new units.
- Lead costs are on the rise, so recycling spent batteries not only protects the environment but also reclaims valuable lead and plastic for manufacturing, saving energy and money on raw materials.
- Through its various initiatives, AAA has recycled a lifetime total of over 16 million batteries and counting.

For more information, contact your [local AAA or CAA club](#).

Sources: AAA, Club Assist International, Battery Council International, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and Environmental Protection Agency.