

Inspire & Motivate

Reading time: 2 mins

Earth Action: Switch Your Batteries



By [Gemma Alexander](#)

© DEC 23, 2022 [Batteries](#), [earth action](#)



Earth911 is honoring the 52 years of Earth Day with 52 [Actions for the Earth](#). Each week through Earth Day 2023, we will share an action you can take to [invest in the Earth](#) and make your own life more sustainable. The turn of the year is a great time to take care of some of those jobs around the house that we often put off. This week, you can take action for the Earth and clear some space at home by switching your batteries.

Action: Switch Your Batteries

Batteries

These days, nearly everything we own contains a battery. From watch batteries to toys powered by single-use AA or AAA batteries to our rechargeable power tools, and of course, our [cars](#), there are a lot of different kinds of batteries in a home. What they all have in common is that they are bad for the environment and often hard to dispose of safely. Batteries contain [red list chemicals](#) like [cadmium](#), [mercury](#), and [lead](#). When people dispose of batteries in a landfill or incinerator, these chemicals can be released into groundwater and the air.

What Do You Think?

Are you considering moving because of climate change?

- Yes
- No
- I'm researching my options to decide

* By clicking "NEXT" you agree to the following: We use cookies to collect your survey answers. If you would like to continue with this survey, please read and agree to the [CivicScience Privacy Policy and Terms of Service](#)

NEXT *

Many states ban batteries from disposal in the garbage. Many others don't specifically regulate batteries, but batteries still meet their definition of hazardous waste. Even where disposal is illegal, recycling batteries can be complicated. The many different kinds of battery contain different chemicals with different recycling processes and handling requirements. And community resources for recycling vary widely across the country. As a result, nearly every home has a stash of dead batteries. That pile of batteries just keeps growing while we wait for an easy recycling solution.

Recycle Batteries

This week, dig out that stash of old batteries and figure out how to recycle each type. Use Earth911's [home battery recycling guide](#) to start. Most of your old batteries will probably be the old kind of [single-use battery](#), but even rechargeable batteries eventually die and [need to be recycled](#). Don't forget to collect and recycle the bigger and more unusual batteries like [rechargeable tool batteries](#) while you're at it.

To find your nearest battery recycling location, use Earth911's [Recycling Locator](#) or use the [recycling search tool](#). If your local recycling options are limited, look into [mail-in recycling](#) programs. As you research your options, make a note of the types of batteries you use most.

Switch Your Batteries

Now that you have a clear idea of the types of batteries you use, you can take a few minutes to find more sustainable alternatives. Most of your electronics probably already use rechargeable batteries, but nowadays, you can even replace disposable AA and AAA batteries with [rechargeable options](#).

But you might have a stock of disposables on hand. If you do, go ahead and use them before recycling them. As you use up your existing stock of batteries, choose more sustainable ones to replace them. If you want to go even further, consider a [portable solar energy system](#) to recharge your devices and your new batteries, or even [switch your home](#) to solar electricity.

advertising

[Edit](#)



Reading time: 2 mins

[Earth911 Inspiration: All Things Share the Same Breath](#)



By [Gemma Alexander](#)

Gemma Alexander has an M.S. in urban horticulture and a backyard filled with native plants. After working in a genetics laboratory and at a landfill, she now writes about the environment, the arts and family. See more of her writing [here](#).

Related Post