

WASTE BATTERIES



Penalties can reach \$3m and 5 years in jail

The general public also have a responsibility to ensure domestic waste batteries are managed appropriately. Some local businesses, retail outlets and waste management facilities provide a collection point for the general public to drop off domestic waste batteries. Contact your local Council or battery retailer for more information.

If waste batteries cause contamination the NTEPA can issue Pollution Abatement Notices (PAN) to prevent and rehabilitate contamination and require environmental audits of the impacted areas. Caution notices can also be issued which are attached to the land title to warn prospective purchasers of the risks attached to affected contaminated properties.

Find your nearest disposal location

recyclingnearyou.com.au/

Find out how you can recycle your waste

cleanup.org.au/recycle

Licensed companies that handle listed waste

ntepa.nt.gov.au/your-business/public-registers/licenses-and-approvals-register/environment-protection-licences

Report pollution

Pollution Hotline: 1800 064 567

Email: pollution@nt.gov.au

Seek advice from the NT EPA or enquire about a license

Phone: 08 8924 4218

Email: waste@nt.gov.au

Records to be kept by commercial and industrial operators:

- Keep all information about who is transporting the waste batteries.
- Retain all dockets and receipts of where waste batteries are being disposed of and the amounts of waste batteries handled.



ntepa

Northern Territory
Environment Protection Authority

General Enquiries 08 8924 4218
Level 1, Arnhemica House, 16 Parap Rd, Parap
Postal Address: GPO Box 3675, Darwin NT 0801
ntepa.nt.gov.au

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In any format, batteries are potentially hazardous

What is waste battery?

A waste battery is any used battery that is no longer fit for its intended purpose. Some examples include batteries in laptops, mobile phones, power tools, vehicles, EPIRBs, AAA, AA, C, D, 9V and 12V batteries.

What are the risks associated with waste batteries?

Most batteries contain hazardous materials, such as:

- Carbon
- Zinc
- Manganese
- Lithium
- Nickel
- Aluminium
- Cadmium
- Lead
- Copper
- Mercury
- Uranium

When not being used, and/or when disposed of, the chemicals inside batteries can leak from their casing. Waste batteries:

- can contaminate the area of storage;
- can pollute land and water from leaked heavy metals;
- are flammable and corrosive; and
- can contaminate and persist in the environment for long periods of time.



Legal requirements for waste batteries in the Northern Territory

Under the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998* (WMPC Act), all Territorians:

- have a General Environmental Duty (GED);
- are responsible for preventing environmental harm;
- require a licence to collect, transport, store, recycle, treat or dispose of waste batteries on a commercial or fee for service basis; and
- performing licenced activities without an appropriate licence is an offence.

Due to the risk waste batteries present, the transport of waste batteries from a commercial or industrial premises must always be done by an NT EPA licenced handler. Performing licenced activities without an appropriate licence is an offence under the WMPC Act.

If you hold an interstate environment protection licence or a dangerous goods licence, please contact the NT EPA to seek information on the requirements for handling waste batteries in the Territory.

Transport and disposal

Waste batteries are a listed waste	I must engage a licenced transporter	I must dispose of my waste at a licenced facility	I should avoid disposal at landfills
I dispose of my own waste batteries	X*	✓	✓
I engage a business to dispose of my own waste batteries	✓	✓	✓
I dispose of waste batteries on behalf of a business	✓	✓	✓

* Due to the risk waste batteries present you might need to engage a licenced transporter to dispose of your waste batteries. This is dependent on quantities.

If in doubt contact the NT EPA for further information.



Improper storage of wastes which can escape to the environment is likely to lead to enforcement action being taken and costs for clean up being sought.