How to handle... **UNIVERSAL WASTE**  

**BATTERIES**

**TRAIN**  
Employees who handle universal waste require training, and the training should be documented.

**CONTAINERIZE AND KEEP CLOSED**  
Tape ends of batteries and place in closed, non-metal, leak-proof containers.

**LABEL**  
All containers must be correctly labeled as “Universal Waste - Batteries” “Waste Batteries” or “Used Batteries.”

**DATE**  
Containers or individual items must be labeled with the date when the first battery was placed in the container or the date when the user decided the battery was waste.

**REMOVE**  
Batteries must be removed from the facility for recycling within one year of the date on the container.

If not managed as universal waste, the batteries listed below must be managed as hazardous waste.

Batteries that may be managed as universal waste include:

- button batteries
- lithium and lithium ion batteries
- rechargable nickel-cadmium batteries
- nickel-metal hydride batteries
- sealed lead-acid batteries
- silver oxide batteries
- mercury oxide batteries

Alkaline batteries are not hazardous and may be recycled or disposed of as household or commercial waste.

Go to dnr.wi.gov and search “universal waste” to find WA-1622 Battery Recycling for Businesses.
RESOURCES AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Applicable Wisconsin Administrative Codes: Batteries
NR 673.02, 673.30 Applicability: what batteries must meet these requirements
NR 673.09 Definitions
NR 673.13 (1), 673.33 (1) Containers/Closure
NR 673.14 (1), 673.34 (1) Labeling and marking
NR 673.15 (1), (2), (3); NR 673.35 (1), (2), (3) Accumulation time limits, dating, removal
NR 673.16, NR 673.36 Employee training
NR 673.17, 673.33, 673.37 Response to release

For more information on this subject, including other publications, staff contacts and administrative codes and statutes, go to dnr.wi.gov and search "universal waste." Staff contact information can also be found by searching "hazardous waste requirements" in the DNR staff directory.

Mailing address: DNR Waste & Materials Management Program, PO Box 7921 Madison, WI 53707
Email: DNRWasteMaterials@Wisconsin.gov

Universal Waste Guidance and Reference Documents
Collector Best Management Practices: Universal Waste and Used Oil (WA-1736)
Management of Wisconsin-Specific Universal Waste (WA-742)
Lamp and Bulb Management (WA-195)
Managing Used Antifreeze (WA-356)
Management of Mercury Containing Equipment (WA-1004)

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