

BATTERIES (Alkaline)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Americans purchase over 4 billion dry cell batteries each year. Non-rechargeable alkaline batteries are very commonly used in household items. When alkaline batteries were introduced in the 1960s, they contained a small amount of mercury, however, since 1993, domestically made alkaline batteries contain no added mercury and are essentially mercury free.

POTENTIAL HAZARDS

Over time, alkaline batteries are prone to leaking potassium hydroxide, a caustic agent that can cause respiratory, eye and skin irritation. This can be avoided by not attempting to re-charge alkaline cells, not mixing different battery types in the same device, replacing all of the batteries at the same time, storing in a dry place, and removing batteries for storage of devices.

WASTE CHARACTERIZATION

Alkaline batteries manufactured after 1993 contain no added mercury and are essentially mercury free. They can be discarded as non-hazardous solid waste with general refuse. If you need to dispose of a battery but are unsure what type of battery it is, please contact the DPW Environmental Division Compliance Inspections Program or the TAP for assistance.

HANDLING AND DISPOSAL PROCEDURES

Step 1: Alkaline batteries (such as common household “AA”, “AAA”, “C”, “D”, 9 volt, etc.) may be disposed of in the trash.

Step 2: Try to replace non-rechargeable alkaline batteries with rechargeable batteries to minimize the generation of waste batteries.



Photo Source: www.wikipedia.com