

Battery Recycling Information

Non-rechargeable Batteries (AA, AAA, C, D, 9-volt)

Alkaline batteries can be thrown in the trash. Due to stricter federal manufacturing regulations, alkaline non-rechargeable batteries now contain very small amounts of toxins and are no longer considered a hazardous waste by federal and state standards. In addition, Monmouth County no longer accepts these alkaline non-rechargeable batteries for recycling.

Proper Disposal of Button/Hearing Aid Batteries

These batteries are frequently found in hearing aids, digital thermometers, insulin pumps, watches, toys and calculators. The disposal of button batteries depends on the battery and **if** it contains mercury. Mercury-free battery options CAN be disposed in household waste. To determine if your hearing aid batteries are mercury-free refer to the packaging. If the battery package does not say “mercury-free” assume it is not safe to toss. Batteries that contain mercury should be recycled responsibly via a recycling center that accepts batteries with mercury. One example of a brand that uses mercury in some of their products is PowerOne. PowerOne sells both mercury-free and mercury-containing batteries.

Although they are a German company they do sell their batteries to US vendors, typically audiology offices. Should you need a mercury-containing battery ask your audiologist to obtain this for you. It is common for audiologists to carry both mercury-free and mercury-containing batteries since some hearing aids do not operate well on mercury-free batteries. Hearing aids can be sensitive to varying voltage readings. A perfectly good mercury-free battery may be read by the hearing aid as having a low voltage and cause the hearing aid to emit false “low battery” warnings or the hearing aid may shut itself down when battery levels briefly drop. This stems from mercury-free batteries having overall less stable voltage patterns. Battery manufactures are improving their batteries every year to deal with these issues and hearing aid manufacturers are also changing how hearing aids monitor battery levels. However, there are many hearing aid users which find, for now at least, that mercury-containing batteries are a necessity. Hearing aids that are more likely to need mercury-containing batteries include high power hearing aids, hearing aids that take size 10 batteries, and earlier digital models. *Pro Tips* for getting better life from your batteries:

1. Allow batteries to “Air Up” when you peel the sticky tab. This means that you should wait for one to two minutes after peeling the sticker before you place batteries inside the hearing aids. Hearing aids are more air tight and fresh batteries need more oxygen in the first minute to fully activate. Don’t snuff out your batteries!
 2. Don’t store batteries in humid areas of your home such as your kitchen or bathroom. Do not keep batteries in the refrigerator!
 3. Keep your hearing aids dry including the batteries. If you have been sweating take your battery out and wipe it off with a tissue. Built up moisture in the battery compartment will lead to rusting of the battery. Over time this can actually damage the hearing aids too!
- You can drop off used button batteries in collection containers at the following locations:

Manalapan Senior Center
211 Freehold Road (Route 522)

Covered Bridge
(collection container in the main office) 1 Covered Bridge Blvd

Manalapan Town Hall
(collection container at the information desk) 120 Route 522

Professional Hearing, Speech, and Balance Center
Building 6, Suite B
4257 U.S. 9, Freehold, NJ 07728-8310
(732) 303-9660
Located on Route 9 North between Central Jersey Pools and Pier One Imports in the Freehold Office Plaza

Monmouth County Library
125 Symmes Drive Manalapan
(collection container located near the 2nd entrance to the children's room, behind the music CD collection)

Monmouth County Household Hazardous Waste Facility
3211 Shafto Rd. Tinton Falls, NJ 732-683-8686 X 5210

Rechargeable Batteries

Rechargeable batteries, including those found in cordless power tools, wireless phones, laptop computers and digital cameras, should still be recycled. Rechargeable batteries can be recycled at participating retail locations including:

Radio Shack, Best Buy, Staples, Target, Office Max, Lowes, Home Depot, Wal-Mart and Verizon Wireless. To find a retail collection site, use the collection site locator at www.call2recycle.org or call the consumer helpline 877-2-RECYCLE. The following retail location in Freehold collects these batteries and ships them to a recycling facility:

Provision Pharmacy
30 West Main Street Freehold, NJ