



## UCCS SAFE OPERATING PROCEDURE

### 4. SAFE DISPOSAL OF BATTERIES

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(For assistance, please contact [Environmental Health & Safety](#))

Many different kinds of batteries are used in the campus workplace. Batteries are a [regulated waste](#) under the [Universal Waste](#) rules. Listed below are the common types of batteries and proper disposal methods. If you have unwanted batteries not listed, contact [EH&S](#) or [Sustainability](#).

UCCS has a battery recycling program. Currently, there are black buckets around the UCCS campus to drop off all household batteries, small appliances, and cell phones. Dropoff locations are predominantly located on the main floor in each building on campus. If you are unable to locate a battery recycling bucket, please contact [Sustainability](#).

**Alkaline batteries** are commonly referred to as disposable or non-rechargeable batteries. They normally come in sizes such as AAA, AA, C, D and 9-volt. **Alkaline batteries are nonhazardous and can be thrown in the garbage. Although they can also be placed in the battery recycling buckets**

**Button batteries**, found in watches, calculators, and other small electronic devices, often contain mercury, silver, or lithium. Button batteries are also referred to as mercury/zinc, carbon/zinc, silver oxide, and zinc batteries. Whenever possible they should be returned to the manufacturer or at point of sale when purchasing a new battery. Otherwise they can be placed in the black buckets listed above.

**Nickel-Cadmium (Ni-Cad) batteries** are the most common rechargeable battery. They come in widely assorted sizes and shapes -- most equipment that comes with a charger likely use NiCad batteries. Some rechargeable batteries are **lead-gel**; handle these the same way as you would Ni-Cad batteries.

Ni-Cad batteries contain regulated amounts of Cadmium and cannot be disposed of in the trash.

When purchasing a new Ni-Cad battery, ask the point of purchase to take your old battery. If the company supplying the new battery will not accept the old ones, they can be placed in the black buckets listed above.

Sometimes rechargeable batteries are built into a machine or tool, such as rechargeable flashlights.

When these items no longer work or hold a charge, the complete unit must be properly disposed as hazardous waste or returned for recycling. **Do not attempt to disassemble the equipment; place the whole unit in the black buckets listed above.**

**Lead-acid batteries** include most car and motorcycle batteries. These batteries contain regulated amounts of lead and cannot be disposed of in the trash. Most businesses require a trade-in (for recycling) at the time of purchase when you purchase a new battery, or an additional fee is assessed. This is the most cost effective and environmentally responsible way to dispose of old lead-acid batteries. If you are not turning in an old battery for purchase of a replacement, contact the [Sustainability](#) Office for recycling options.