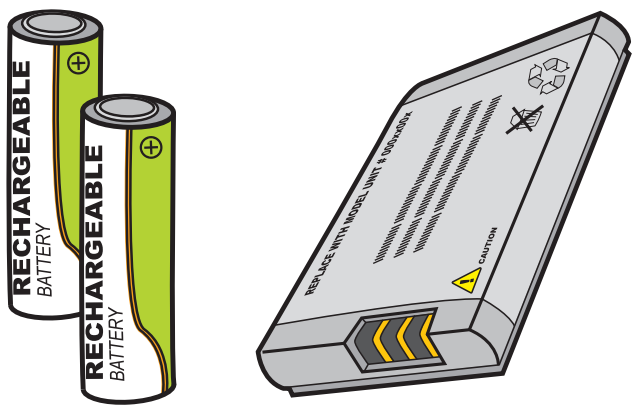


# New York City's Rechargeable Battery Law



- **Effective December 2006**, it is illegal to discard rechargeable batteries in the trash (or in residential recycling containers) in New York City.
- **New York City stores** that sell rechargeable batteries (or products containing rechargeable batteries) **must accept rechargeable batteries for recycling** during normal business hours, **no purchase necessary**.

## Where to recycle rechargeable batteries:

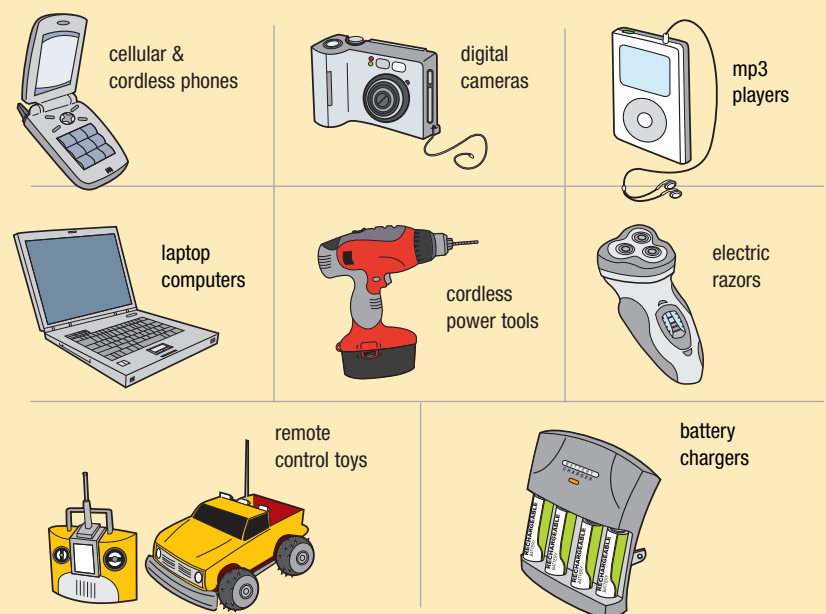
- **All stores in New York City** that sell rechargeable batteries (or products containing rechargeable batteries) **must accept rechargeable batteries for recycling, no purchase necessary**. Examples of such stores include hardware, office supply, electronics, wireless phone, large grocers, and variety stores.
- For a list of locations, visit the **Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation's** website at: [www.call2recycle.org](http://www.call2recycle.org) or call **(877)-2-RECYCLE** (877-273-2925).
- **Stores must set up a convenient location within the store** to accept rechargeable batteries and post a sign near the store entrance.
- **If a store refuses to accept your batteries, please call 311.**



## What must be accepted:

- Nickel cadmium, nickel metal hydride, lithium ion, or small lead rechargeable batteries.
  - Up to ten batteries of the same size and shape can be brought to a store for recycling.
- Please note: stores are only required to take the type of batteries they sell, however, many will accept all rechargeable batteries.
- Stores must also accept rechargeable batteries found in the products they sell.

## Examples of products containing rechargeable batteries:



Note: Compared to single-use batteries, rechargeable batteries reduce waste; however they contain mercury, cadmium, lead, and other heavy metals that can be dangerous if not disposed of properly.

## What about other batteries?

- **Single-use alkaline batteries** currently sold in the U.S. contain little to no mercury and pose little risk to the environment if thrown in the trash.
- **Button batteries**, typically used in watches and hearing aids, may contain mercury. Ask your local jewelry or watch store if they accept them for recycling.
- **Automotive batteries** contain lead and other corrosive substances; it is illegal in New York State to discard a car battery in the trash or on the street. Automotive batteries are recyclable and there are many places throughout New York City where they can be dropped off. Return automotive batteries to any service station or auto supply store that sells them. When you buy a new battery, you pay a \$5 surcharge. If you return a "dead" car battery when purchasing a new one, the \$5 surcharge on the new battery is waived.
- **Used household batteries and automotive batteries can be brought to any NYC Department of Sanitation Special Waste Drop-Off Site.** Call 311 or visit [www.nyc.gov/nycwasteless](http://www.nyc.gov/nycwasteless) for more info.



City of New York, Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor  
 Department of Sanitation, John J. Doherty, Commissioner  
 Call 311 or visit [www.nyc.gov/nycwasteless](http://www.nyc.gov/nycwasteless)

