

POWERING UP SAFE BATTERY DISPOSAL

INFORMATION FOR RETAILERS

Currently only 15% of household batteries are disposed of safely

Over the past few years, significant investment has been made to ensure we safely capture and dispose of expired batteries, but there's still more to be done.

Due to their convenience, retail collection points are the most popular among consumers. To increase awareness and improve safe disposal rates of batteries and electronic items, we need retailers and partners to share the message and encourage responsible drop-off.



Over 1.9 billion kilograms of recoverable batteries enter the Australian market each year.



Approximately 85% of expired batteries are stored at home or incorrectly disposed of in landfill.



Up to \$3.1 billion worth of recoverable materials are lost each year due to batteries not being recovered.



Improper disposal can lead to **damaged batteries** ending up **in the environment**.

DO ANY OF THE PRODUCTS YOU SELL CONTAIN BATTERIES?

electronic toys **remote controls** *flashing shoes* **laptops**
computers car remotes vapes cameras musical greeting cards
wireless devices e-scooters **mobile phones** **power tools**
usb devices *rechargeable items* electronic medical devices
and many more ...

* Figures provided are based on the Bicycle Positive Charge 2023-24 report

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Frequently Asked Questions

How do I know where to drop off?

With multiple programs across Australia, it can be confusing to know where and how to correctly dispose of different types of batteries safely.

Recycle Mate is a new app and website developed to make recycling in Australia simple and convenient.

Consumers are using Recycle Mate to easily identify the closest and most convenient collection points for different types of products, including batteries.

What happens if batteries are thrown in regular kerbside bins?

Batteries placed in kerbside bins can be crushed or damaged during collection or sorting, especially when compacted in waste trucks. Combined with other flammable materials, they can overheat or spark, causing fires. This not only endangers workers and the public but can also damage essential infrastructure and harm the environment.

What programs are there for safe disposal?

There are multiple programs that handle expired batteries and battery-powered products, but some batteries still lack collection options, and it can be difficult for consumers to know where to take each battery.

Recycle Mate makes the entire process much easier.



Did you know?

Around 95% of a battery's materials can be recovered and reused to make new products like stainless steel, ceramics, electronic components, new batteries and even road surfaces.

Correct disposal gives batteries a second life and protects the environment.

How retailers can help

While retailers are not expected to provide expert advice on batteries, consumers often look to and appreciate businesses that can point them in the right direction. To help prepare your business and staff for customer queries, follow these steps:

1 IDENTIFY which of your products have batteries. Remember it may not be obvious, or the battery may be embedded or non-removable.



2 EXPLORE the Recycle Mate app and ensure there are viable safe disposal options for the batteries you sell. If your products don't have a safe disposal option, consider discussing this with your supplier.



Visit RecycleMate.com.au or download via App Store or Google Play



3 ACCESS more information, resources and signage on the Australian Retail Council website.



Scan QR code for more resources and information



4 EDUCATE your customers on how to safely dispose of batteries. Use posters and flyers at the point of sale to help spread the word.



Every battery kept out of kerbside bins protects people, property, and the environment.