HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

LITHIUM BATTERY SAFETY

Lithium batteries are a common household hazardous waste (HHW).
When damaged or exposed to extreme heat, these batteries can start fires that are hard to put out.

REDUCE YOUR RISK OF FIRE

PROTECT BATTERIES FROM DAMAGE

Avoid physical damage, electrical damage and dangerous temperatures.

HANDLE CAREFULLY

- Do not drop, crush or throw batteries or devices.
- Do not forcibly remove batteries from devices.

PREVENT SHORT-CIRCUITING

- Cap or apply electrical tape to battery terminals, and/or
- Separate each battery into individual plastic bags.

FOLLOW SAFE STORAGE PRACTICES

- Use sturdy, rigid containers, such as plastic drums or reinforced cardboard boxes.
- Keep containers in cool, dry areas, away from direct sunlight and nearby flammables.
- Store devices in a way that prevents them from being activated.

ISOLATE BATTERIES IF DAMAGED

Check for, separate and protect any damaged batteries or devices that may have damaged batteries.

CHECK BATTERIES FOR SIGNS OF DAMAGE

- Intense heat that doesn't go away quickly
- Discoloration
- Corrosion
- Cracks
- Swelling
- Hissing
- Leaking

CHECK DEVICES FOR SIGNS OF ABUSE

- Physical damage
- Major wear-and-tear
- Water damage
- Charred/melted parts

IMMEDIATELY ISOLATE SUSPECT ITEMS

- Use fireproof containers filled with sand or vermiculite.
- Keep containers in cool, dry areas, away from direct sunlight and flammables.
- If possible, keep containers in a separate building, away from occupied spaces.

LITHIUM BATTERY TYPES

LITHIUM-ION

Rechargeable • No metallic lithium • 2024 ERG - Guide No. 147

Battery markings

- **Rechargeable**
- **Lithium-Ion**
- **Li-ION**
- **LiPo**
- **LIR followed by a four-digit number**

These batteries are used in many consumer devices, such as power tools, cell phones, laptops, vapes, electric toothbrushes and e-bikes. If it can be charged, then assume it has a lithium-ion battery.

LITHIUM METAL

Single-use • Metallic lithium • 2024 ERG - Guide No. 138

Battery markings

- **Lithium cells**
- **Lithium**
- **CR followed by a four-digit number**

These batteries can be found in many small electronics, such as calculators, key fobs, children's toys, watches and cameras.
Metallic lithium is water-reactive, so never let a lithium metal battery come in contact with water.

BOTH LITHIUM-ION AND LITHIUM METAL BATTERIES CAN CAUSE FIRES!

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

Call 911 and follow your facility's emergency response plan.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SCAN THE QR CODE.

This poster is intended only as an informational resource to help Kansas satellite HHW facility operators manage HHW. It does not have the effect of law, and it does not alter or supersede any compliance responsibilities as set forth under KAR 28-29-1100 through 28-29-1107 or under any HHW facility's KDHE-approved operating plan. Contact the Kansas Small Business Environmental Assistance Program for questions at sbeap@k-state.edu or 800-587-8898.

Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Kansas SBEAP Small Business Environmental Assistance Program
Paid for, in part, by the Kansas Department of Health & Environment