



FACT SHEET

Automotive Batteries

Hazards

- Automotive batteries contain sulfuric acid that can burn skin.

Handling

- Handle batteries with acid resistant rubber or leather gloves.
- Keep sparks and flames away from batteries and don't smoke nearby.
- Never place metal objects on top of the battery because it can cause sparks. Cover battery posts with electrical tape. Remove rings, chains, and other metallic items before handling.
- Keep batteries right side up.
- Carry batteries in non-metallic, leak proof containers.
- If a battery leaks, neutralize any spilled acid with baking soda or calcium carbonate (lime). Flush area with water.
- If acid comes in contact with skin, flush area with water immediately and seek medical attention, if burning continues.

Management Options

- Do not throw batteries in the trash. Automotive batteries are banned from landfills and combustion facilities in Massachusetts.
- Most automotive battery retailers will accept used batteries when purchasing a new one.
- Take to a permitted household hazardous products collection center.
- Most community recycling centers and household hazardous waste events accept automotive batteries.

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

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