



Know Your Waste - BATTERIES

About 600 million batteries are sold in the UK every year and they quickly end up in landfill sites. Many of these batteries contain toxic or corrosive metals and a dry cell battery requires 50 times more energy to make than it will ever give out. Some countries such as Sweden and Japan collect batteries separately as hazardous waste, this may not be the case in the UK but it is good practice to limit the number going to landfill sites.

RE-USE

A battery might have run out of energy to power large items but there might be enough for smaller items. Television remote controls are a good destination for old batteries, as they need little power to work.

RECYCLE

Recycling batteries is difficult because of the metals involved. Although 98% of British primary batteries now contain no heavy metals, such as mercury, the small percentage that do would ruin the waste stream for recycling.

REDUCE

The most effective change you can make is reducing the amount of batteries you use.

- Use the mains electricity where ever possible.
- If batteries are necessary use rechargeable batteries. They can be more expensive initially but cheaper to run in the long term as they can last for up to 1,000 charges.
- You can extend the life of rechargeable batteries by running them as low as possible before recharging.
- LongerLife batteries are also a better buy than normal batteries.

USEFUL CONTACTS

- WasteWatch. Information on minimising and recycling waste. Web: www.wastewatch.org.uk
- British Battery Manufacturers Association. Information on current situation and impending legislation. Web: www.bbma.org.uk
E-Mail: paul.duke@westminster.com
- Rebat. Information on batteries and details of collection sites. Web: www.rebat.com/collectionwebpage.htm

REMEMBER

When you are dealing with your waste batteries you need a clear Waste Management Plan.
It is important that you and any companies that you are dealing with are complying with Waste Legislation.

Also refer to the Waste Management and other related tool box talks at

<http://intranet/carillion-environment/>

Seek advice from your environmental advisor if you have any queries or problems.