

Handheld battery recycling collection programs

Guidelines on dealing with used lead acid batteries

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What is the problem?

All used lead acid batteries (ULAB) are recyclable. However, under the Australian Dangerous Goods Code and associated transport regulations they must be packaged and transported separately from other battery types. Handheld battery recycling programs are also not equipped to handle automotive and industrial batteries. If you provide a collection service for handheld batteries you should advise consumers where they can take their ULAB, for example to their nearest council waste management centre or participating battery retailer. More information is available at www.batteryrecycling.org.au/recycling/automotive-batteries.

Which ULAB batteries may end up in handheld battery collections?

Sealed lead acid batteries - You will most likely receive some small sealed lead acid batteries (SLAB). These include uninterruptible power supply (UPS) batteries weighing up to 5kg, and small lead acid batteries used in emergency exit signs, security systems and hobby applications. These batteries will not leak unless they are very badly damaged.

Automotive batteries - Despite your best efforts to educate consumers, you may still receive a small number of automotive ('wet cell') batteries. These are subject to more stringent storage, packaging and transport regulations because of the potential for leaking acid. Wet cell batteries must not be accepted by battery collections in retail stores that sell food.

How should I handle used lead acid batteries?

ULAB must be removed from the handheld battery collection container and stored separately for transport. The best option is to call one of the ULAB recyclers listed on ABRI's website at www.batteryrecycling.org.au/recycling/automotive-batteries. Most of these companies will collect ULAB from your facility and will also be able to provide you with advice on safe storage and handling.

All lead acid batteries must be stored under cover. They must be transported in accordance with packaging instructions in the Australian Dangerous Goods Code to protect against leakage and short circuit (P003 for sealed lead acid and P801 for wet cell batteries). Automotive batteries must be stored upright on a pallet or in a plastic crate to avoid the risk of leakage or short circuit. Advice on packaging large quantities of automotive batteries is available through ABRI's [Packaging Standard for Used Lead Acid Batteries](#). They should be collected by the recycler on a regular basis.

More information

ABRI has published guidelines on safe handling, storage and packaging of ULAB. These can be downloaded from www.batteryrecycling.org.au/resources/abri-publications. You can find a ULAB recycler on ABRI's website at www.batteryrecycling.org.au/recycling/automotive-batteries.

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