

## JULY ARTICLE

### CONTACT:

### FUNERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR DEAD BATTERIES

Laptops, toys, cell phones, calculators – these are just some of the mobile products that need batteries to function. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that more than 350 million batteries are purchased annually in the United States.

Batteries are a unique product comprised of heavy metals and other elements. Some of these toxic heavy metals include nickel cadmium, alkaline, mercury, nickel metal hydride and lead acid. It is these elements that threaten our environment if not properly discarded.

Not all batteries are the same, and there are different ways to ensure each type is properly discarded or recycled. The batteries that consumers use most include household alkaline batteries, nickel-cadmium (NiCd) batteries, nickel metal hydride (NiMH), rechargeable batteries, button cell, automotive and non-automotive lead-based batteries.

That's a lot of batteries – how do you know what type you're using? The following information might help:

**Household/Alkaline batteries** are common, single use batteries – AA, AAA, C and D. These batteries have little to no mercury in them, and recycling programs generally no longer accept them. When disposing of household alkaline batteries, it is best to check with your local and state recycling or household hazardous waste coordinators concerning the specifics of your program.

**Nickel-Cadmium (NiCd)** are rechargeable batteries, considered to be hazardous waste, and **MUST** be recycled.

**Nickel Metal Hydride (NiMH) or Lithium-Ion** are commonly used in laptops. They are considered non-hazardous waste but contain elements that can be recycled.

**Button Cell** batteries are commonly used in hearing aids, calculators and watches. These batteries contain silver, mercury and other elements that are hazardous to the environment and should be recycled.

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**Automotive & Sealed Lead-Based** batteries contain hazardous materials and elements that can be reused and should be recycled as well.

Batteries are a necessary aspect of modern life in America. When discarding them, please use care and dispose them properly.

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