

Alkaline Battery Recycling in FESS

FESS workers use thousands of disposable alkaline batteries every year. Alkaline batteries are not hazardous, but they can be very corrosive when they degrade. This means potential problems for landfills, which is where most batteries end up.



Fortunately, some of the metal in spent batteries can be recovered and recycled. In FESS, batteries can be dropped into 2-gallon plastic containers located on the 5th floor of Wilson Hall, Sites 37, 38, and 39, and the Site 39 storeroom. Batteries that have been collected will be surveyed and prepared for recycling.

Batteries should be screened and prepared for recycling as follows:

- Do not mix battery types. Only alkaline batteries generated at Fermilab will be accepted by Property for recycling. All other Fermilab batteries require disposal through the Hazard Control Technology Team.
- Tape the contact ends of all 9 volt batteries to prevent excessive heat build up from shorted contacts.
- Common alkaline sizes included AAA, AA, N, C, D, 6 & 9 volt and button.
- To be eligible for recycling, batteries must be free of radioactive contamination and meet Fermilab's survey release criteria.
- Batteries are not subject to the DOE Metals Moratorium and can be recycled.



If you have any additional questions concerning battery recycling, please contact Rod Walton at extension 2565, or Bill Newcomb at extension 2437.