

Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County News

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SWA's April Household Hazardous Waste Tip

~ Batteries cause havoc when put in recycling bins ~

Throwing rechargeable batteries in a recycling bin or the garbage can put property and people's lives at risk. In fact, fires traced to lithium ion batteries have been reported at recycling facilities nationwide, and fires have started in the garbage trucks that go to your home.

These batteries power our cell phones, cordless power tools and even hover boards. According to a recent Resource Recycling article<<https://cloud.3dissue.com/168774/169114/197590/RR0319/index.html>>, they have components that are flammable. The battery heats up when shorted or damaged, and when that happens, they produce oxygen, which facilitates combustion.

“We may only be starting to see the tip of the iceberg,” said SWA Director of Facility and Contract Operations Ray Schauer. “Production of these batteries has tripled since 2015 and growth is estimated to continue. The fact that we could see more of these lithium batteries at our facilities is cause for concern.”

Fortunately, Palm Beach County residents can dispose of rechargeable (non-alkaline) batteries at any of the SWA's seven Home Chemical and Recycling Centers<<http://www.swa.org/HCRC>>.

Regular alkaline batteries (AA, AAA, C, D and 9 volt) can be placed in your garbage. But any other type of battery (rechargeable, nickel-cadmium, automotive, lithium-ion, cell phone, lead-acid) should be dropped at one of the Home Chemical and Recycling Centers<<http://www.swa.org/HCRC>>.

The SWA's locations include (from north county to south county):

- Jupiter

North County Transfer Station

14185 N. Military Trail (SWA Road) in Jupiter

Monday - Friday: 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday: 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

- West Palm Beach

Home Chemical and Recycling Center

6161 N. Jog Road in West Palm Beach

Monday - Friday: 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday: 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.

- Belle Glade

Glades Regional Transfer Station

1701 State Road 15 in Belle Glade

Monday - Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

- Royal Palm Beach

West Central Transfer Station

9743 Weisman Way (formerly Process Way) in Royal Palm Beach

Monday - Friday: 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday: 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

- Lantana

Central County Transfer Station

1810 Lantana Road in Lantana

Monday - Friday: 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday: 7 a.m. - 12 p.m.

- Delray Beach – West

Southwest County Transfer Station

13400 S. State Road 7 in Delray Beach

Monday - Friday: 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday: 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

- Delray Beach – East

South County Transfer Station

1901 SW 4th Ave. in Delray Beach

Monday - Friday: 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday: 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

In addition to these locations, many major retailers will recycle batteries for free, and have drop-off containers placed near the front of their stores.

“We’re asking all Palm Beach County residents to please never throw rechargeable batteries either in the garbage or your recycling bin,” said Schauer. “The best place for Palm Beach County residents to take their old batteries is to one of the SWA’s Home Chemical and Recycling Centers.”

- Watch the SWA’s lithium ion battery commercial
– <https://youtu.be/fR1mKTBZES0>
- Review the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s Homeowner’s Guide To Battery Recycling And Disposal
- https://floridadep.gov/sites/default/files/Battery-Fact-Sheet_09Dec15.pdf

Commercial quantities of batteries may require special disposal. Call 561-687-1100 for details on recycling batteries from your business.

In the last fiscal year, Palm Beach County residents recycled:

- 57,460 pounds of lead acid batteries

- 6,896 pounds of mixed batteries
- 3,400 pounds of ni-cad batteries and
- 2,280 pounds of lithium ion batteries

at the SWA's Home Chemical and Recycling Centers<<http://www.swa.org/HCRC>>. Each year, the SWA's Home Chemical and Recycling Centers either recycles or safely disposes of 4.2M pounds of household hazardous wastes.

Remember, pollution prevention starts at home. A full list of household hazardous wastes can be found at [SWA.org/HCRC](http://www.swa.org/HCRC)<<http://www.swa.org/HCRC>> or call 561-697-2700 or 866-SWA-INFO (toll-free) to learn more about the Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County's Home Chemical and Recycling Centers.

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About the SWA

The Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County is a Dependent Special District that was created by the Florida Legislature in 1975. Since then, the SWA has developed an award-winning integrated solid waste management system to handle the county's waste and recyclables. We call ourselves AWAY: whether you throw it, recycle it or flush it AWAY, we put your waste to work. Each year, we:

- Process almost 90,000 tons of recyclables<<http://www.swa.org/RecycleRight>> each year
- Burn approximately 1.8 million tons of trash each year to generate electricity at renewable energy facilities<<http://swa.org/364/Renewable-Energy-Facilities>>
- Produce enough electricity to power approximately 74,000 homes

- Recycle more than 150,000 tons of wastewater treatment residuals<<http://swa.org/353/Biosolids-Processing-Facility>> (sludge from flushes) into environmentally-friendly fertilizer
- Safely dispose of more than 4.2 million pounds of home hazards<<http://swa.org/171/Home-Chemical-Disposal>> a year
- Collect water off of the roofs of Renewable Energy Facility 2<<http://swa.org/375/Palm-Beach-Renewable-Energy-Facility-2>> and store it in a 2 million gallon cistern, which is used as part of the energy making process Connect with the Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County - SWA.org<<http://www.swa.org/>>

<<http://www.facebook.com/SolidWasteAuthority>> <<https://twitter.com/swapbc>> <<https://www.linkedin.com/company/solid-waste-authority>> <<https://www.youtube.com/user/SolidWasteAuthority>> <<http://www.pinterest.com/swapbc/>> <<http://instagram.com/swapbc/>>