

In response to “How to Dispose of Batteries” published 3/17/12

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The Tehama County Sanitary Landfill Agency encourages residents to properly dispose of spent alkaline batteries.

Though the Federal government doesn't require special disposal measures for spent household batteries, California state law prohibits the disposal of all batteries (alkaline and rechargeable) as trash in the landfill. Alkaline batteries produced in the last few years may not contain mercury, however, they do contain corrosives and heavy metals that pose a threat to people and the environment if released. These toxins can leach into the water supply and contaminate soils if not properly handled. Properly disposing of batteries not only keeps the community free of toxins, but also captures metals for recycling.

Tehama County is one of the few jurisdictions in California that provides free curbside alkaline battery collection through the orange-bag alkaline recycling program. Residents within the City of Red Bluff, the City of Tehama and the unincorporated portions of Tehama County can pick up orange battery bags at the following locations:

True Value Hardware - Red Bluff

Radio Shack - Red Bluff

Shasta Fasteners - Red Bluff

Walmart - Red Bluff

GreenWaste of Tehama - Red Bluff

Tehama County/Red Bluff Landfill - Red Bluff

Tehama County Environmental Health - Red Bluff

Los Molinos Hardware - Los Molinos

Lake California Gate House - Lake California

Simply fill the orange-bag with your used alkaline batteries, seal and then place the bag inside your curbside recycling cart or tub. Do not place rechargeable batteries in the bags. The Tehama County/Red Bluff Landfill and Corning Disposal also accept alkaline and rechargeable batteries free of charge for residents that live within the City limits of Corning or do not have recycling service.

As for rechargeable batteries, Assembly Bill 1125 requires retailers that sell rechargeable batteries (cell phones, laptops, cameras, power drills, etc.) to accept and recycle the batteries at no charge to the consumer.

Small fees apply to businesses and government entities for alkaline batteries and must schedule a drop-off.

For more information about the alkaline battery collection program or the proper disposal of other materials, visit www.tehamacountylandfill.com or call the Tehama County Sanitary Landfill Agency at 528-1103.