

# Homeowners Guide to Proper Household Battery Management

Due to regulatory changes and less hazardous battery compositions, collection practices will change. **As of January 1, 2010, Somerset County will no longer accept batteries with the curbside collection of recyclables.**

Since the New Jersey Dry Cell Battery Management Act was adopted in 1991 and the Federal Mercury-Containing and Rechargeable Battery Management Act was adopted in 1996, household battery manufacturers have begun manufacturing alkaline batteries with no added mercury and have reduced the amount of mercury added to other batteries. **Alkaline batteries now fall below Federal and State hazardous waste standards and can be disposed of in the regular trash.**

## WHAT TYPES OF BATTERIES SHOULD I RECYCLE?

Rechargeable batteries can be found in cordless power tools, cellular and cordless phones, laptop computers, digital cameras, two-way radios, camcorders, and remote control toys. Rechargeable batteries sometimes look like regular alkaline batteries. The label on the battery will indicate if it is rechargeable. **If it says “Alkaline”, dispose of it in the regular trash.**

## WHERE CAN I BRING MY RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES FOR RECYCLING?



Rechargeable batteries CAN be recycled at participating retail locations including the following: Best Buy, Staples, Lowes, Home Depot, Sears, Wal-Mart and Verizon Wireless or Somerset County Household Hazardous Waste events..

To find a retail collection site use the collection site locator at [www.call2recycle.org](http://www.call2recycle.org) or call the consumer helpline, 1-800-8-BATTERY.

## WHAT ABOUT BUTTON CELL BATTERIES?

Most button cell batteries still contain mercury. These batteries can be brought to the Somerset County Household Hazardous Waste events.

Somerset County will accept rechargeable or button cell batteries at Household Hazardous Waste events. Remember, batteries must be properly prepared before drop off. New Federal regulations have been enacted to prevent short circuiting of batteries during transport. **Residents must individually bag each battery or tape each of the terminal ends prior to recycling.**