

Think Twice About Throwing Away Your Spent Batteries: RECYCLE!

Americans buy nearly 3 billion throwaway batteries every year to power up electronic devices; and each year, billions of used batteries are thrown into the trash and are burned in incinerators or end up in landfills.

Single-use batteries (used in radios, flashlights, toys and calculators) and rechargeable batteries (used in cameras and appliances such as portable power tools, camcorders, computers and cell phones) both contain chemicals. While single-use batteries are less toxic than they used to be and pose no environmental threat, using them just adds to the waste stream. On the other hand, rechargeable batteries contain toxic metals, such as nickel. And as rechargeable batteries degrade, they also leach toxins into the environment, contaminating the air, water and food chain.

Most municipalities in the United States do not offer cost-effective recycling programs for throwaway alkaline batteries, such as AA, AAA, C, D and 9-volt. But most municipal government waste departments in New York State do have a voluntary drop-off program for collecting **rechargeable** batteries; a few have curbside pick-up.

Many stores on Long Island also recycle **rechargeable** batteries and serve as a collection point. *Here are just a few:*

Staples: www.staples.com
Target: www.target.com
Walmart: www.walmartstores.com
CVS: www.cvs.com



Quick Battery Primer

Which batteries can be recycled?

In most cases single-use batteries such as AA and AAA **cannot** be recycled. Green experts urge you to buy rechargeable household batteries instead.

Nickel-cadmium **rechargeable** batteries are considered hazardous waste and must be recycled.

Lithium-ion batteries for laptops are non-hazardous waste but should be recycled.

Button-cell batteries for small toys and watches contain silver and mercury. They are hazardous waste and must be recycled.

Lead-acid automotive batteries are hazardous waste and must be recycled.

For more information on where you can recycle rechargeable batteries, go to www.call2recycle.com.

Extend a Helping Hand

South Nassau's Food Bank is still accepting donations of nonperishable foods, gift cards from local grocers and cash (no personal checks, please). The pantry, established in 2008, is open year round.



Nonperishable items (i.e., canned vegetables, soups, peanut butter and cereal) can be dropped off at the department of volunteer services on the ground floor of the hospital opposite the dietary department or the nursing office on the E wing, first floor. Monetary donations and gift cards must be dropped off to Fran Crispi,

executive associate, in administration.

If you need food assistance or more information, call Mary Gillespie (day shift) in social work at extension 4087. During the evening and night shifts, call Dawn Keiley at extension 3910 or 4051 and Beryl Harrison at extension 3910 or page 915, respectively. All calls are confidential.

Halloween Candy Buy-Back

How do you keep your kids from getting too much of a sweet thing this Halloween? Some Long Island dentists are participating in a "Cash for Candy" program this Halloween and are buying candy from trick-or-treaters and then sending the treats to U.S. troops overseas. Not only does it help kids cut back on sugary treats and teach them how to give back to the community, but it also provides soldiers with a taste of home.



To locate a participating dental practice near you, go to www.halloweencandybuyback.com and type in your zip code. Some of the dentists we spoke to in Nassau County are collecting candy on Monday, November 2 and paying each trick-or-treater \$1 per pound of candy, with a limit of up to seven pounds.