Waste Battery Recycling Guide

For Portable Rechargeable Lithium-ion Batteries
Regulation (EU) 2023/1542

(a) Waste prevention, reuse, repurposing and remanufacturing

End-users play an important role in waste prevention for batteries. Good practice behaviours help extend battery service life: avoid deep over-discharge, avoid continuous overcharging, and store batteries within recommended temperature range at 40–60% state of charge.

Where technically feasible, batteries may be subject to reuse, preparation for reuse, preparation for repurposing, repurposing and remanufacturing. Such options help reduce raw material consumption and waste generation. Please only carry out reuse-related activities under suitable technical conditions; do not attempt unofficial remanufacturing or repurposing without proper expertise.

(b) End-user role in separate collection

Under Article 64 of Regulation (EU) 2023/1542, end-users have obligations for separate collection of waste batteries. Waste lithium-ion batteries must not be discarded together with household mixed waste. Proper separate collection enables subsequent professional treatment and material recovery. End-users shall participate in separate collection schemes available locally.

(c) Separate collection, take-back points, reuse preparation and treatment

Waste batteries shall be handed over to authorised collection channels. Available options include retailer take-back services, designated public waste battery collection points, and official producer-organised collection systems.

Collected waste batteries will go through processes including sorting, preparation for reuse, preparation for repurposing, and subsequent material treatment and recycling according to EU regulatory requirements. Do not dispose of waste batteries via general residual waste bins.

(d) Safety instructions for handling waste batteries

Special safety precautions apply when handling waste lithium-containing batteries.

- If a battery shows swelling, leakage, deformation or damage, avoid direct physical contact.
- Do not pierce, crush or disassemble waste batteries.
- Keep damaged waste batteries away from heat sources and combustible materials.
- Place damaged waste batteries in non-combustible containers before delivering them to authorised collection points.
- In case of electrolyte contact with skin or eyes, rinse abundantly with clean water and seek medical assistance if irritation persists.

(e) Explanation of battery labels and symbols (Article 13)

- Crossed-out wheeled-bin symbol: indicates batteries shall not be thrown into unsorted household waste; separate collection is mandatory.
- Markings on battery body or packaging include battery model, chemistry, nominal voltage and capacity. These markings provide key information for classification and handling of batteries at end-of-life.

Please refer to the QR-code landing page for full battery marking information.

(f) Environmental and human health impact of battery substances

Batteries contain substances including metals and chemical compounds. Improper disposal such as littering or discarding into unsorted municipal waste may cause substances to leak into soil and groundwater. This creates risks to ecosystems, environment and human health. Proper collection and recycling minimise such adverse impacts and support circular economy targets of the European Union.

Notice

This guide is prepared in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2023/1542 Article 74(1)(a)–(f).
Please always follow local national waste management rules in EU Member States.