

Home Battery Safety 101

Prevent battery fires with safer charging, storage, and disposal habits.



1. Identify Battery Format & Chemistry

Format (size and application):

Primary/Single-Use

(AAA, AA, C, D, 9V, button/coin)
Non-rechargeable, found in everyday devices like remotes, flashlights, toys, and clocks.

Small Rechargeable

Found in phones, cordless tools, portable chargers, drones, etc.

Medium-Format

Higher energy for lawn mowers, e-bikes, non-EV cars, etc.

Large-Format / EV

Very high power for electric cars. Managed only through certified EV recycling/recovery programs.

Chemistry (check labels):

Alkaline

Most common single-use chemistry. Low spark risk, terminal protection not required for disposal.

Lithium / Li / Li-Ion / CR

High energy density, common in modern rechargeable electronics, high spark risk.

Nickel / NiCd / NiMH

Mid-energy, common in older and budget high-drain devices.

Lead Acid / Pb / SSLA

Non-EV car / marine batteries, backup power systems, etc.



2. Buy & Charge Safely

- ✓ Choose UL listed or other safety-certified batteries, chargers, and electronics.
- ✓ Use a charger made for your device or approved by the manufacturer.
- ✓ Do not charge batteries under pillows or blankets, on beds or couches, or near exits.



3. Store Safely

- ✓ Remove batteries from device when not in use and store them in a cool, dry place away from heat and direct sun.
- ✓ Keep batteries away from coins, keys, tools, and other metal or sharp objects.
- ✓ Follow any manufacturer-specific directions for charging, storage, and maintenance.



4. Package & Drop Off Used Batteries

- ✓ Bag batteries individually OR tape terminals with electrical tape or clear tape (not required for alkaline single-use).
- ✓ Put batteries in plastic bags, separated by battery chemistry, with battery labels visible when possible.
- ✓ Follow drop-off instructions from one of these resources:

Washtenaw County Household Hazardous Waste Program

Collects used or swollen batteries and other hazardous materials at collection events and by appointment.

See other side for more info or call 734-222-3950

OR

Other participating locations at The Battery Network.



BatteryNetwork.org/locator

2026 - 2027 Holiday Schedule

Curbside collection schedules may be impacted by the following City holidays. Visit a2gov.org/solidwaste for more details.

2026	September 7	Mon	Labor Day
	November 26	Thurs	Thanksgiving Day
	December 25	Fri	Christmas Day
2027	January 1	Fri	New Year's Day
	May 31	Mon	Memorial Day
	July 4	Sun	Independence Day (Sunday - no service impact)

If your carts go to the curb, do the following:

- Carts must be set out by 7:00am on your collection day - depending on route and driver your collection time may vary from one week to the next.
- Ensure handles face away from the street.
- Place carts 3 feet apart, lids fully closed, no trash or debris on/around them.
- Abide by placement rules for streets with bike lanes.
- In winter, keep carts free of snow or ice and accessible to trucks. Do not place carts on snow banks - instead shovel out a spot on the road or lawn extension.
- Carts must not exceed 224 pounds (64-gallon) or 336 pounds (96-gallon).

Curbside assistance is available for those physically unable to place their carts at the curb and unable to make other arrangements. Contact Customer Service at **734.994.7336** for details.

Seasonal Yard Waste Collection

Paper yard bags and bundled brush/tree limbs are collected seasonally on your weekly waste collection day, from April through mid-December.

Fall Collections October - mid-December*	Spring & Summer April - October*
20 BAG LIMIT	10 BAG LIMIT

* Increased 20-bag limit in the fall typically starts the first Monday of October through the second Friday of December. Visit a2gov.org/compost for exact dates.



Branches must be under 4 feet long and 6 inches in diameter, bundled with natural twine or placed in a compost cart. Bundles must be under 18 inches in diameter.



Each bag or bundle must weigh less than 50 lbs.



Winter Compost Cart Collection

Compost carts are collected year-round, with service reduced from weekly to monthly starting in mid-December. In January, February, and March, carts are collected during the first full week of each month on your regular collection day. Visit a2gov.org/wintercompost for more information and exact dates.

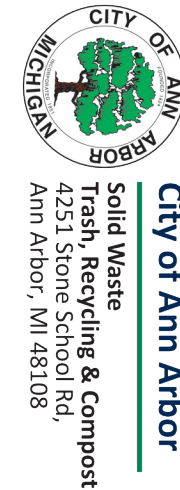
For more information and to stay informed, visit our website at a2gov.org/solidwaste



Curbside Collection Holiday Schedule on back

Residential Disposal Guide

2026-2027



Garbage truck fire from lithium battery
June 2, 2026, Ann Arbor Fire Department

Keep Batteries Out of Trash & Recycling!

Batteries, even "dead" ones, can pose a **serious fire risk** to trash collection and curbside recycling. When trash and recycling are compacted, sorted, or dumped, batteries can get damaged and ignite. A single battery incident at the wrong place and time could harm several workers and cause millions of dollars in facility and equipment damages. Rechargeable electronics are a particular challenge because the battery is sealed away, invisible to consumers or even treated as disposable.

Hidden batteries can be found in many everyday items, including:

Phones & Earbuds	Remotes & Key Fobs	Toys & Singing Cards	Smoke Detectors

If it charges, lights up, or makes a sound, check for a battery before disposal!



WARNING SIGNS of Damaged, Defective, or Recalled (DDR) batteries

Do not use, charge, throw away, or recycle any battery that is:

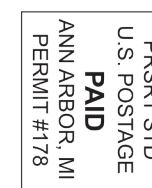
- Swollen
- Crushed
- Punctured
- Smoking
- Leaking*
- Corroded*
- Hot-to-touch
- Recalled by manufacturer

*Leaking or corroded single-use alkaline batteries are not considered damaged and can be handled/disposed normally.

Call 9-1-1 if the battery catches fire or is actively swelling, smoking, sparking, or too hot to handle safely.

If safe to do so, remove the battery from the device, place it in a sealable plastic bag in a hard non-flammable container (ash bucket, cooking pot, terracotta planter), cover it in non-flammable material like dirt or cat litter, and place it outside *away* from your home or vehicle.

Contact the manufacturer or Household Hazardous Waste Center at 734-222-3950 for further instructions.



What Can I Recycle?

Recycling is for everyone! The City provides recycling service for all residential and commercial properties.

Glass Bottles and Jars



Metal Cans



Boxes and Cardboard
(empty & flatten boxes)



Paper and Cartons



Plastic Bottles, Tubs, and Containers
(recycle plastics #1, 2, 5, empty and leave screw caps on)



NO

- x Plastic bags or film
- x Polystyrene foam ("Styrofoam")
- x Batteries
- x Black plastic
- x Bulky plastic
- x Paper cups
- x Shredded paper
- x Textiles / clothing
- x Syringes
- x Gas cylinders (CO2, propane, camp fuel)
- x Scrap metal
- x Car parts (brakes, rotors, etc)
- x Yard equipment & parts
- x Sports equipment

What Can I Compost?

Curbside compost service is available to all single-family homes and new drop-off opportunities for food scraps are coming soon!

Food Scraps
(meat, bones, and dairy included)



Yard Clippings
(leaves, grass, weeds, plants, flowers, small branches, twigs)



Food-Soiled Paper
(unbleached and uncoated)



Other Compostables



Cut-Up
Holiday Trees



CMA-W Certified Items
(fiber and paper items only)



Paper Lawn Bags
(see "Seasonal Yard Waste Collection" section for details on bags and bundles)



NO

- x Plastic/synthetic twine/rope (use only natural twine for bundling branches)
- x Plastic bags / containers
- x Pet waste
- x Diapers
- x Painted or treated wood
- x "Compostable"/bio-based plastics
- x Bamboo or palm leaf items
- x Bleached or coated paper
- x Household trash
- x Dirt, rocks, stones, or gravel

What Goes in the Trash?

Below are examples of common trash items, but trash is everything that is NOT recyclable, compostable, reusable, repairable, hazardous, or heavy.

Single-Use Disposable
Plates and Cups



To-Go Containers
(Black plastic or plastic foam)



Food Wrappers, Pouches, and Bags



Non-Recyclable Glass
and Ceramics



Diapers, Pet Waste,
& Litter



NO

- x Recyclables
- x Large/bulky items
- x TVs or electronics
- x Yard waste or logs
- x Liquids
- x Batteries
- x Hazardous materials
- x Scrap metal
- x Gas cylinders (CO2, fuel, etc)
- x Construction materials

What Do I Do With ...?

Large Items and Excess Trash or Recycling

For items in good, usable condition, the best method of disposal is reuse, either by donation or resale.

For large items such as furniture, scrap metal, appliances, and other bulky materials that are no longer in good, usable condition, several options are available for disposal. Scan the QR code and visit our website for details.

Reuse & Disposal Options

For more information on reuse and large item disposal options, visit:



a2gov.org/bulkyitems

Batteries, Paint, Cleaning Chemicals, and Other Household Hazardous Waste

Products labeled poisonous, hazardous, flammable, or corrosive should **never** be trashed, flushed, or poured on the ground. Residents can dispose of excess according to label instructions or bring them to the **Washtenaw County Home Toxics Center** or **Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Center**.

- Cleaners & polishes
- Batteries
- Fluorescent bulbs
- Pesticides/herbicides
- Automotive fluids
- Paints (latex/oil)
- Solvents
- Stains/varnishes
- Medical sharps
- See website for more items

Note: e-cigarettes & vapes are not accepted

Washtenaw County Household Hazardous Waste Program

For more information on **Saturday collection events** in Ann Arbor Scio Township or **weekday drop-off appointments** in Northville Salem Township, visit or call:



washtenaw.org/HomeToxics
734-222-3950

Washtenaw County Cleanup Days

These are FREE events where county residents can recycle and dispose of many household items including:

- Electronics
- Household Haz. Waste
- Bulky waste
- Appliances
- Car tires
- And more!

There are multiple events each year at different locations across the county, and Washtenaw residents may attend any of these - not just in their own city or township.

Cleanup Day Info

For Cleanup Day details, dates, and locations, visit:



washtenaw.org/cleanup