

## U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii – Environmental Compliance Guide

# BATTERIES (Alkaline)

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Americans purchase over 4 billion dry cell batteries each year. Non-rechargeable alkaline batteries are very commonly used in household items. When alkaline batteries were introduced in the 1960s, they contained a small amount of mercury, however, since 1993, domestically made alkaline batteries contain no added mercury and are essentially mercury free.



Photo Source: [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)

### POTENTIAL HAZARDS

Over time, alkaline batteries are prone to leaking potassium hydroxide, a caustic agent that can cause respiratory, eye and skin irritation. This can be avoided by not mixing different battery types in the same device, replacing all of the batteries at the same time, storing in a dry place and removing batteries for storage of devices.

### WASTE CHARACTERIZATION

Used batteries are considered UNIVERSAL WASTE. Broken batteries may be HAZARDOUS WASTE. If you need to dispose of a battery but are unsure what type of battery it is, please contact your DPW Environmental Compliance Inspector for assistance.

### HANDLING AND DISPOSAL PROCEDURES

**Step 1:** Try to replace non-rechargeable alkaline batteries with rechargeable batteries to minimize the generation of waste batteries.

**Step 2:** Tape all terminals and place in a cardboard box with the inventory written on the top of the box. Mark and/or label the box “USED BATTERIES” and the “DATE” indicating the date the batteries were collected as unserviceable, on the front of the box. Use a Universal Waste Collection Log to account for battery accumulation.

**Step 4:** Broken batteries may be HAZARDOUS WASTE. Check with the DPW Environmental Division Compliance Inspections Program for the proper management of any broken battery.

**Step 5:** Contact the *Waste Pickup Request Line (808) 656-0867* for pick-up.

**IMPORTANT:** All batteries must be turned-in within 6-months of the “DATE” the battery became a waste.

