

NEW YORK STATE | Office of General Services

Quick Guide to Buying and Using Batteries

The Executive Order 22 Battery Specification covers any AAA, AA, and D size batteries. The goal is to reduce the amount of single-use batteries that are used by minimizing the purchase of batteries in general and when they are needed, purchasing rechargeable batteries instead.

Battery Terms and Definitions

Battery: An electrochemical device with the ability to convert chemical energy to electrical energy to provide power to electronic devices.

Low Self Discharge: Technology that allows a rechargeable battery to hold onto its charge for a long period of time while not in use.

mAh: A unit of measure for electrical power over time. It is used to describe the amount of energy a battery can store at a time.

Nickel Metal Hydride (NiMH) Battery: A battery that uses nickel metal hydride chemistry as a means to store energy.

Proper Disposal of Batteries at End of Life

Single Use alkaline AAA, AA, and D batteries: There are a number of companies that provide alkaline battery recycling kits. There generally is a small fee for this service.

Rechargeable NiMH AAA, AA, and D batteries: It is against the law to knowingly dispose of NiMH batteries in the garbage in New York State. Instead, NiMH batteries must be recycled and there are companies that offer no-cost recycling kits.

Guidelines for Buying

Rechargeable Batteries

- ✓ Use NiMH chemistry
- ✓ Use low self-discharge technology
  After 1 year retain 80%
  After 3 years retain 75%
- ✓ Rated at the following power levels
  AAA: 800 mAh
  AA: 2000 mAh
  D: 8000 mAh

Rechargeable Battery Chargers

- ✓ Are capable of charging AAA, AA, and D batteries in a single unit

Best Practices for Using Rechargeable Batteries

- ✓ Store batteries at room temperature
- ✓ Charge battery prior to the first use to ensure it is charged to 100%

More Information

Read the full EO 22 specification for batteries on the GreenNY website at: https://ogs.ny.gov/greenny/aaa-aa-and-d-batteries

Learn more about GreenNY Purchasing at https://ogs.ny.gov/greenny