



# GreenNY

## Quick Guide to Buying and Using Batteries

The Executive Order 4 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 4 specification for batteries on the GreenNY website at: <https://ogs.ny.gov/greeny/aaa-aa-and-d-batteries>



Learn more about GreenNY Purchasing at <https://ogs.ny.gov/greeny>