



# GreenNY

## Save Money by Reducing Your Single-Use Battery Usage



Single-use alkaline batteries are a financial burden on New York State—costing tens of thousands of dollars annually. Replacing traditional alkaline with rechargeable batteries can save a considerable amount of money as well as reduce the environmental impact. The vast majority of batteries end up in landfills, significantly exposing the environment to highly toxic heavy metals and adding approximately 61,000 lbs. of waste per year.

### How do I eliminate or minimize the need to purchase AAA, AA, and D batteries?

When purchasing new electronic equipment, such as a computer mouse, look for a product that can be wired or plugged in, rather than one requiring individual batteries. If battery power is the only option, purchase a device with a built-in rechargeable to eliminate the need for single-use alkaline.

### How do I purchase quality rechargeable batteries?

If you must use single-use AAA, AA, or D batteries for your electronic equipment, use rechargeable ones. New technology makes rechargeable batteries stronger and longer lasting than ever before without sacrificing performance. Rechargeable batteries work in all applications except for certain emergency and medical devices. If you don't know whether a rechargeable battery will work in your device, contact the manufacturer to find out what they recommend.

When purchasing rechargeable batteries, make sure you select ones that meet the following Executive Order No. 4 purchasing specifications for optimal performance. Batteries should:

- Use a Nickel-Metal Hydride Battery (NiMH) chemistry
- Use a low self-discharge technology that ensures the battery:
  - Retains 80% of its charge after 1 year of storage
  - Retains 75% of its charge after 3 years of storage
- Are rated at a minimum amount of power of:
  - AA: 2000 mAh
  - AAA: 800 mAh
  - D: 8000 mAh

Rechargeable batteries are available for purchase through the following entities:

- [Preferred Sources](#)
- [Industrial & Commercial Supplies and Equipment Contract](#)

### What kind of charger should I purchase for my rechargeable batteries?

Purchase a charger that is capable of charging, at a minimum, AAA, AA, and D batteries. There are many chargers available for a wide variety of battery types/sizes, allowing you to cut costs by only needing to purchase one charger. In addition, look for one that charges each battery individually, instead of a paired or unit station. This ensures that in a time crunch, some of the batteries will have a full charge and be ready to use, rather than all the batteries having only a partial charge.

### How do I properly dispose of batteries at their end of life?

**Single-Use Alkaline Batteries** – Single-use alkaline batteries should be recycled. Battery recycling kits are available on state contract through the [Industrial and Commercial Supplies and Equipment Contract \(OGS Group 39000, Award 22918\)](#).

**Rechargeable NiMH Batteries** – Rechargeable NiMH batteries must be recycled. It is illegal to knowingly dispose of NiMH batteries in the trash in New York State. More information on this can be found on [DEC's rechargeable battery webpage](#). There are many companies that offer no cost rechargeable battery recycling. Generally, these companies will send you a box, or bin, that you can collect batteries in and mail to them when full.

### What are some best practices to ensure that rechargeable batteries work their best?

- Store batteries at room temperature. Extreme temperatures will cause them to lose their charge more quickly.
- Even if the package says that batteries are “precharged,” charge them prior to first use to ensure a 100% charge.

Email [GreenEO4@ogs.ny.gov](mailto:GreenEO4@ogs.ny.gov) for questions related to green purchasing and Executive Order 4.