Why we should recycle

- Nickel-cadmium batteries are potentially carcinogenic when exposed to extreme heat and moisture thus should not be disposed of in general waste.
- When batteries end up in landfill they can leach toxic metals, polluting land and water.
- Over 66% of batteries purchased every year in Australia are sent to landfill, making them the most common form of household hazardous waste.

How recycling helps

- Battery acid can be recycled into sodium sulphate, which is used to manufacture laundry detergent, glass and textiles.
- Cadmium can be recycled back to battery manufacturers to be used again, creating a closed loop recycling system.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Don’t throw batteries in the general waste.
- Recycle old batteries.
- Buy rechargeable batteries. Rechargeable batteries last longer, can be used 100 times more than single-use batteries and divert harmful waste from entering landfills.
- To recycle DRY batteries at UQ, send in a sealed container via internal mail to: University Chemical Store, Cnr Glasshouse Road and Walcott St, St Lucia Campus.
- To recycle WET batteries at UQ email: chemwaste@uq.edu.au for collection.

DRY CELL BATTERIES contain an electrolyte in paste form, commonly alkaline, lithium-ion, and nickel-cadmium. They are used in cameras, watches, radios and phones.

WET CELL BATTERIES use a liquid electrolyte, commonly lead-acid or nickel-cadmium cells and are used in cars, boats, telecommunication or large uninterruptible power supplies.