

# Battery Recycling



In February 2001, photos were taken from a battery recycling workshop given by Frank Topkok at the Battery Specialists in Anchorage. Follow along to find out how to recycle your batteries.

## Safe Handling and Storage

Batteries should be handled with protective gear. Rubber gloves, polyester clothes and protective eyewear are highly recommended. Batteries should be stored off-the-ground and covered. Try a shed, shipping container, or fish tote. If batteries are exposed to sun, rain, or cold temperatures, they may crack and leak acid and heavy metals. **Make sure contaminants from leaking batteries cannot enter the soil or nearby water.**

## Arrange Shipping

Arrange to ship the batteries through your local air or barge lines to a battery recycler in Anchorage, or your nearest hub city. Ask the shipper to backhaul your batteries free-of-charge. See if the battery recycler will pick up the batteries at the port or airport for no charge. Some battery recyclers are listed on the other side, or look up auto supplies and parts in your phone book. If you have trouble getting free shipping, call Joe Sarcone, EPA at 271-1316 or Ray Paddock, CCTHITA 1 800 344-1432.



## Stack Batteries for Barge Shipping

Shipping requirements and regulations depend on whether the batteries will be flown or barged out.

*For shipping on a barge only.* Place one layer of batteries on a wooden pallet and cover with at least 2, but preferably 3, sheets of waffle board (also called honeycomb). It is preferable to use waffle board, but 6-10 layers of stacked cardboard (totaling 6 inches high) can be used as an alternative. Stack only 1 more layer of batteries - both layers should contain approximately 18-24 batteries. The top layer is best for batteries of odd size.



## Shrink-Wrap Batteries

Next, wrap the battery stacks well with shrink wrap. To make sure the batteries are covered well, wrap around the top and side of the stack several times. See other side for information on where to get the materials.



## Secure Battery Stack

To secure the shrink-wrapped batteries, run strapping tape fully around the pallet on the side and over the top. A fastening tool like the one in this picture is very useful.

### Fish Totes

The rule for shipping batteries is two liners. The casing for batteries that aren't cracked is one liner. The shipping container provides the second liner.

*For shipping batteries by plane or barge:* A fish tote with no cracks or holes makes a great container. Once a tote is used for batteries, mark it well so it won't ever be used to hold edible items.



### Damaged Batteries!

Batteries that are damaged (leaking, missing caps, or cracked) must be shipped in their own sealed container - like a sturdy plastic bag.

#### Some Lead-Acid Battery Recyclers Give them a call...

##### **Anchorage:**

Battery Specialists of Alaska, 276-5251  
NAPA Auto Parts, 563-3637

##### **Bethel:**

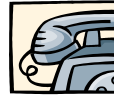
NAPA Auto Parts 543-2673

##### **Fairbanks:**

ABS Alaska Battery Recycling, 452-2002  
Jackovich Industrial & Construction Supply, 456-4900

##### **Seattle:**

Allied Batteries, (206) 762-5522  
Dyno Battery, (206) 283-7450



### Materials

*The following materials can be purchased at the stores listed below.*

**Plastic wrap** (called shrink wrap) is ordered by the case and contains 4 rolls. A case costs approximately \$75.

**Banding kit** - A banding kit has everything you need to secure the batteries and plastic wrap. A kit costs approximately \$500. Strapping tape, buckles or clips and a tension tool for the strapping can also be purchased separately.

**Waffle (honeycomb) cardboard** may be purchased from many of the battery recyclers listed to the left. This type of cardboard may cost \$3 to \$4 a sheet.

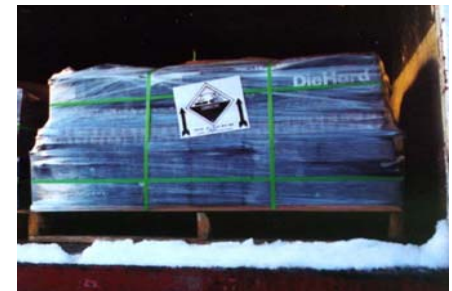
**Visqueen** is plastic sheeting that can be used to line battery shipping containers.

Hoffmans Strapping & Fastening 522-1505  
Alaska Industrial Hardware 276-7201  
Alaska Warehouse Supply 1 (800) 770-3842



### Make Your Own Container!

You can also make your own container for plane or barge shipping. This shipping box was made from wood scraps. The bottom and sides of the box must be lined with a single sheet of visqueen or plastic tarp and stapled down. Cardboard padding around the inside of the box is a good idea.



### Label Batteries & Fill Out Shipping Papers

Finally, stick a "Corrosive" shipping label on the container. Labels can be ordered from the battery recyclers listed above. If you call Frank at Battery Specialists in Anchorage, he can send some to you for free.

Also, you must fill out shipping papers. The shipper can provide you with the form and may help you fill it out. The information you need is:

**Shipping name:** "Batteries, wet, filled with acid"

**Hazard Class or Division:** 8

**UN or ID No.:** 2794

**Packing Group:** III

**Weight:** Car/truck batteries weigh 21 lbs, and Honda/snowmachine batteries weigh 12 lbs. A full battery pallet will weigh between 2,500 lbs and 3,000 lbs.