

What happens to old batteries?

Mobile Battery Service recycles ones it replaces

A breakthrough in recycling is under the hood of your vehicle. In the U.S., 99% of lead-acid automotive batteries are recycled, making them one of the most recycled products on the market.

Recycling an old battery reduces waste and removes a potential hazard from a landfill or your home. It's a win-win situation, as drivers and the environment benefit.

Each battery has nearly 21 pounds of lead and a quart of sulfuric acid. Using a special shredder, the plastic is chipped, washed and sent to a plastics plant, where it is melted and made into new battery cases or other parts.

The lead is melted and poured into ingots for use in new batteries. Sulfuric acid is neutralized and turned into water or converted into sodium sulfate that is used in laundry detergent and other products.

A new generation of electric vehicles will bring a significant increase in the number of batteries on the road and concerns about how those advanced lithium-ion batteries will be recycled after their 10 to 15 years of usage. Carmakers like Volkswagen, which plans to build 1 million electric vehicles yearly by 2025, already is working to develop a robust second life for the batteries that will power them.

Batteries eventually lose the ability to hold energy. A lead-acid battery's lifespan depends on a variety of factors, but only about 30% of batteries sold today will see their third birthday. Car batteries need to work in huge temperature extremes and stand up to constant shocks and vibrations. Multiple onboard computers, and powertrain features like stop-start technology, heated seats, wireless hotspots and video displays have created a new level of demand for electrical power.



HOLDS A CHARGE – AAA batteries have a three-year, free-replacement warranty. *Image: AAA.*

If your battery is failing you, AAA Mobile Battery Service has trained technicians who perform a free test of your car's battery, starting and charging systems. State-of-the-art diagnostic equipment will confirm whether your battery will hold a charge, or if the problem lies deeper in the electrical system. Best of all, the technicians come to you and the service is included with your AAA membership. If necessary, and with your approval, they will install a new high-quality AAA battery on the spot.

Designed to meet or exceed your vehicle's original equipment design and power specifications, AAA batteries offer 100% free-replacement warranty for the first three years. Battery-service vehicles carry batteries compatible with 90% of all cars,

SUVs and light trucks.

Every battery that AAA replaces is safely recycled at an EPA-certified facility to conserve natural resources and protect the environment. AAA Mobile Battery Service has recycled more than 4 million automotive batteries, containing 90 million pounds of lead and 12 million pounds of plastic, helping to make car batteries the most-recycled consumer product in America.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

AAA Mobile Battery Service is available from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. 7 days a week. To verify availability in your area, call our toll-free number: 1-800-222-4357 for a no-cost evaluation.

Steps to take before picking car battery

Car batteries are not a "one-size-fits-all" part. Differences in vehicle needs and manufacturers make for an array of battery choices on the market. Here's how to pick the battery that best suits your vehicle:

Physical size – Car batteries are sized by group number. The group number dictates the length, width and height of the battery case. Your vehicle is designed to hold a specific battery group size. While a different size battery might physically fit in the space, the battery hold-down will likely not secure it correctly. The terminals also might be in the wrong place. An undersized battery might move around, damaging itself or the car, while an oversized battery might not allow the hood to close or even

cause a short if the terminal's stick is up too high. Stick with the battery size found in your owner's manual.

Power capacity – Physical battery size isn't the only important factor. A battery must also have enough cranking amps to start the car. The amount of power a battery can put out at zero-degree Fahrenheit is called the cold-cranking-amp (CCA) rating. Manufacturers design vehicles with a minimum CCA needed to start the car. While it is OK to use a battery with more CCA than stock, it is highly unadvisable to use a battery with less CCA than the car requires. When in doubt, consult your owner's manual.

Construction – Not all batteries are created the same and how a battery is put together plays an important part in its service life. For example,

AAA Premium batteries feature rugged construction such as reinforced posts, straps and welds to protect vital internal components. Heavy-duty optimized electrical pathways inside a AAA Premium battery deliver power efficiently for strong starts every time.

Warranty – Most batteries include some sort of warranty. When it comes to battery warranties, longer always is better. Each AAA Premium battery is backed by a limited warranty that includes a three-year, free-replacement warranty.

Now that you know the basics, you are ready to pick a new battery. AAA Premium batteries are available at local NAPA Auto Parts stores, as well as AAA Approved Auto Repair shops, NAPA AutoCare Centers and AAA Mobile Battery Service.

AAA DIRECTORY

- INTERNET WEB SITE: www.AAA.com
- AAA MEMBER SERVICES • ADDRESS CHANGE**
TRIP TIKETS, MAPS, LICENSE
412-363-5100 or 1-800-441-5008
- APPROVED AUTO REPAIR**
412-365-7411 or 1-800-233-9733
- EMERGENCY ROAD SERVICE**
412-362-1900 or 1-800-222-4357
- EXPRESS TRAVEL RESERVATIONS**
AIRLINE TICKETS, TOURS, CRUISES, RENTAL CARS
412-363-7283 or 1-800-354-8761
- INSURANCE SERVICES:** 1-800-207-7947
- MEDIA RELATIONS:** 412-365-7274
- SAFETY:** 412-365-7211

AAA BRANCH OFFICE LOCATIONS

- Altoona**
1634 Valley View Blvd. 814-946-1277
- Butler**
138 Clearview Circle 724-287-2713
- Cranberry**
The Village Shoppes 724-772-1122
- Erie**
6660 Peach St. Unit #2 814-866-0246
- Franklin**
491 Allegheny Blvd, Suite 200..... 814-432-3960
- Greensburg**
Eastgate Shopping Center..... 724-834-8300
- Hermitage**
1749 E. State St..... 724-981-9141
- Indiana**
1169 Wayne Ave..... 724-349-4193
- Jamestown**
111 W. Fifth St., Jamestown, N.Y..... 716-488-1981
- Lewisburg**
530 1/2 North Derr Drive 570-524-7455
- Lockport**
7135 Rochester Rd, Lockport, NY..... 716-434-2865
- Meadville**
18939 Park Avenue Plaza Unit #7 814-724-2247
- New Castle**
40 East St..... 724-658-8551
- New Kensington/Lower Burrell**
Crossroads Plaza..... 724-339-4440
- Pittsburgh-East Liberty/Shadyside**
5900 Baum Blvd..... 412-365-7196
- Pittsburgh-Monroeville**
2725 Mosside Blvd..... 412-858-4640
- Pittsburgh-North Hills Area (Ross Township)**
4790 McKnight Rd..... 412-367-7600
- Pittsburgh-Pleasant Hills Area**
9 Clairton Blvd. (Rt. 51)..... 412-655-6100
- Pittsburgh-Robinson Township**
Robinson Town Centre..... 412-809-2800
- Pittsburgh-South Hills Area (Bethel Park)**
160 Ft. Couch Rd. 412-833-5203
- Rochester**
300 Adams St. 724-775-8000
- Somerset**
110 N. Center Ave. 814-443-6526
- Sunbury**
1001 Market Street. 570-286-4507
- Uniontown**
Fayette Crossing Shopping Ctr. 724-438-8575
- Warren**
2285 Market St. 814-723-6660
- Washington**
196 Murtland Ave. 724-222-3800
- Wexford-Wexford Plaza**
10548 Perry Highway 724-933-3000
- White Oak/McKeesport Area**
Oak Park Mall 412-675-3400