



**Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation**

## **Lead-Acid Batteries**

### **What You Need to Know About Lead-Acid Battery Recycling**

- Cars, trucks, recreational vehicles and boats all use lead-acid batteries. It is illegal to dispose of the battery in your trash.
- If not properly handled, lead-acid batteries can leak contaminants into soil and water.
- Instead, you must take your dead battery for recycling to a retail store, distributor, or battery recycling facility.
- Retailers are required by law to accept used batteries from customers and distributors must accept used batteries from their retailers.

#### **When Purchasing a New Lead-acid Battery:**

- You can give your used battery for recycling to a retailer at the time you purchase a new one.
- The retailer will charge you a \$5 "return incentive payment" if you do not return a used battery when buying a replacement.
- The retailer, who sold you the battery, will refund the \$5 payment if you return a used battery within 30 days of the purchase date.

#### **Retailers and Distributors Must:**

- Accept, free of charge, up to two used batteries per month from any individual
- Post signs displaying the universal recycling symbol and stating the following: **"IT IS ILLEGAL TO DISCARD VEHICLE BATTERIES. STATE LAW REQUIRES US TO ACCEPT VEHICLE BATTERIES FREE OF CHARGE FOR RECYCLING"**.
- Retailers can legally keep unredeemed payments

#### **For More Information on Lead...**

- Lead Wheel Weights
- Lead Fishing Weights
- Lead Ammunition

#### **More about Lead-Acid Batteries:**

Lead-Acid Battery Law - The legislature hereby finds that the improper disposal of lead acid batteries is a direct threat to the health and safety of the citizens of this state.

Frequently Asked Questions for Lead-Acid Battery Recycling - Frequently asked questions on Lead-Acid Battery Recycling