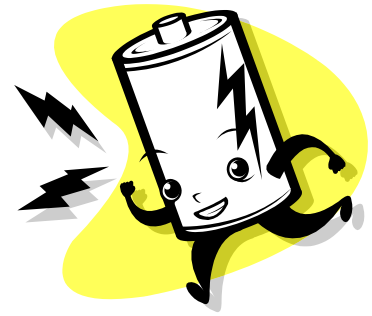


Here come the batteries!

Estimates are that approximately 3 billion single-use batteries are purchased every year in the US – and that 40 percent of those arrive during the holidays in thousands of devices.



Stay safe!

But watch out – there is danger here:



Of special concern for parents and caregivers are the flat, round, so-called “button” batteries. Button batteries are used to power hearing aids, watches, toys, games, flashing jewelry, singing greeting cards, remote control devices and many other items.



At high risk from button batteries are young children at the stage when they put so much in their mouths. If swallowed, most of the time button batteries pass through the digestive system with no problems. But in small children, these batteries can get stuck in the throat. When this happens, the battery can begin burning through tissue in as little as two hours.

Deaths have occurred in cases where the battery hasn't been removed in time.

Keep batteries away from young children. According to the Washington Poison Center, since 1977, all deaths due to swallowed batteries have been in children under four. If you suspect that a child has swallowed a battery, get help immediately. Phone your local Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222, your physician, or go to an emergency room.

Proper Disposal



Battery types made from new combinations of materials spring up all the time. Some are recyclable. Many are classified as hazardous waste.

For information on disposal or recycling of used batteries, check the Department of Ecology's recycling website:

<http://1800recycle.wa.gov/info.html>. Or phone your local hazardous waste program. You will find a list of those numbers at

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/mrw/mrw_contacts.html