

Lithium-Ion Batteries Disposal Guidance

NC State University | Waste Reduction & Recycling | Environmental Health & Safety

Lithium-ion batteries must be managed carefully when entering the waste stream due to **fire risk, explosion, and safety concerns**. Follow the guidance below to ensure proper disposal on campus.

✓ Undamaged Lithium-Ion Batteries

Guidance from Waste Reduction & Recycling (WRR)

If a lithium-ion battery is **not damaged** and shows no signs of swelling, leaking, overheating, or smoke:

How to dispose:

1. **Tape the battery terminals using** electrical tape to prevent short-circuiting.
2. **Place inside closable plastic bag.**
3. **Place the battery in a yellow e-waste cart** located across campus.

Note: Large/excessively heavy/bulky lithium ion batteries can be taken directly to WRR's [Dearstyne Convenience Site](#).

DO NOT dispose of lithium ion batteries in landfill and/or blue recycling bins!

This process applies to batteries from electronics such as laptops, small devices, tools, and other equipment. If you have questions call us at 919.515.9421, email us at recycling@ncsu.edu, or visit our website at recycling.ncsu.edu.



⚠ Damaged or Compromised Batteries - [Guidance from Environmental Health & Safety \(EH&S\)](#)

Damaged lithium-ion batteries require special handling and must NOT be placed in e-waste carts.

Examples of damage may include:

- Bulging or swelling
- Cracking, punctures, or leaks
- Hissing, smoking, overheating, or unusual odors

Immediate actions:

- Do **not** use or charge the battery
- **Isolate the battery** from flammable materials
- Wear appropriate PPE if handling is necessary

Storage prior to disposal (summary):

- Place in a **non-combustible container**
- Surround with **inert material** (e.g., sand, vermiculite, kitty litter)
- Store in a **cool, well-ventilated area** away from other batteries

For disposal instructions, contact EH&S:

- **Environmental Health & Safety**
- ☎ 919-515-6655
- 🌐 ehs.ncsu.edu

Do not transport or dispose of damaged batteries without EH&S direction.

