WHERE TO RECYCLE **NICKEL-CADMIUM (Ni-Cd)**

**BATTERIES WITHIN DOUGLAS COUNTY**

Missing an important call because your cell phone wasn’t properly charged is a common problem in an increasingly wireless world. Rechargeable batteries hold the key to our reliance on convenient, portable products, yet few people understand the basic rules or recharging rechargeable batteries. Even fewer know that when certain rechargeable batteries can no longer hold a charge, they can be recycled!

Nickel-Cadmium (Ni-Cd) batteries are the most common type of portable rechargeable battery, and they’re used to power products such as cordless or cellular phones, camcorders, power tools and many other consumer electronic devices. It is estimated that more than 75 million Ni-Cd batteries are sold annually in the United States.

Only one in six households in North America recycle rechargeable batteries. Teaching the public to bring these batteries to a recycling center is a challenging task. Homeowners have the lowest return ratios, but this should improve once more recycling repositories become available and better environmental awareness is emphasized.

Careless disposal of the Ni-Cd is very hazardous to the environment. If used in landfills, the cadmium will eventually dissolve itself and the toxic substance will seep into the water supply, causing serious health problems.

**What is Call2Recycle?**

Call2Recycle is the only free rechargeable battery and cell phone collection program in North America. Since 1996, Call2Recycle has diverted over 60 million pounds of rechargeable batteries from the solid waste stream and established a network of 30,000 public collection sites. Founded in 1994, Call2Recycle is operated by Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation (RBRC) of Gainesville, Florida, a non-profit organization. RBRC’s goal is to recycle small, sealed Ni-Cd batteries from households and businesses. Call2Recycle is funded by product manufacturers across the globe committed to environmentally-sound recycling of rechargeable batteries and cell phones. These manufacturers place the RBRC recycling seal on their rechargeable products and batteries, informing users that they are recyclable. To identify a nickel-cadmium rechargeable battery look for the “Ni-Cd” label on it.

**How does the Call2Recycle program work?**

Collection sites throughout the U.S. and Canada accept rechargeable batteries and cell phones for recycling from their employees or the public. There is no cost to recycle. Simply drop off at any Call2Recycle collection location. Only small-sealed, dry-cell Ni-Cd batteries displaying the battery recycling seal will be accepted.

**Where can I recycle my spent Ni-Cd rechargeable batteries?**

There are 12 convenient locations in the Greater East Wenatchee area to drop off you spent Ni-Cd rechargeable batteries.

Battery Systems, Inc., 886-9033
Lowe’s, 663-4530
Home Depot, 663-5450
Radio Shack, 663-2213
Radio Shack, 884-3414
Verizon Wireless, 886-7370
Tool Mart, 664-6606
For more information about the Call2Recycle program, visit their website at www.call2recycle.org or call (800) 8-BATTERY.

Ni-Cd rechargeable batteries may also be dropped off during posted Community Recycling Center hours. For specific days and times, please contact:

- City of Bridgeport  686-4041
- Town of Mansfield  683-1112
- City of Rock Island  884-1261
- Town of Waterville  745-8871

Getting the most out of your rechargeable battery
To get the most out of our rechargeable batteries and battery-powered products, follow these important tips:

- Recharge your new battery overnight (14-16 hours) before using it for the first time. This is called “initialing”, and will enable you to obtain maximum battery capacity.
- Let your battery cool to room temperature before recharging. The charge efficiency of most batteries is greatly reduced by elevated temperatures.
- Recharge batteries only when they are near to fully discharged.
- Keep the contacts of rechargeable batteries clean. Wipe them with a cloth soaked in alcohol.
- Never return a fully-charged battery to the charger for an extra boost. This will overcharge the cells and shorten the life of the battery.
- Never leave your cell phone, camcorder, etc., in the recharger when not charging, unless approved by the manufacturer’s instructions.
- Don’t use your charger as a stand! Continuous charging will shorten battery life.

Safe Storage and Packaging Instructions
Ni-Cd batteries are designed to discharge current quickly. A depleted battery may appear to be no longer useful, but can still contain a significant residual charge or a full charge when discarded. Certain precautions must be taken to prevent batteries from short-circuiting, potentially causing a fire. At least one of the following must be done:

- Discharge Cells. Consult your battery supplier for instructions on how to discharge cells completely and safely.
- Package batteries so that terminals will not short-circuit during storage.
- Place plastic, nonconductive electrical tape over the terminals.
- Batteries should be stored inside a cool, dry place away from flammable materials and heat sources.

For more waste reduction & recycling information, contact:

COUNTYWIDE SOLID WASTE PROGRAMS
OF DOUGLAS COUNTY
(509) 886-0899