

Battery Identification Chart

Read the label. Shape and size alone do not tell you the battery type.

Examples help you recognise common waste batteries. Check the battery or equipment manufacturer's information if the label is unclear. Never open a battery pack.



Alkaline

ALKALINE

AA, AAA, C, D and 9V batteries in everyday equipment.



Zinc-carbon

ZINC CARBON / ZINC CHLORIDE

Often sold as heavy-duty batteries. Read the chemistry label.



Lithium primary

LITHIUM / NON-RECHARGEABLE

Some AA batteries and coin cells. Separate from rechargeable lithium-ion.



Lithium-ion

Li-ion / Li-polymer / LiFePO4

Laptop, phone, power-tool and other rechargeable packs.



Lead acid

Pb / LEAD ACID / VRLA

Car batteries, UPS units and other backup power systems.



Nickel-cadmium

Ni-Cd / NiCd

Some older tools and emergency-lighting battery packs.



Nickel-metal hydride

Ni-MH / NiMH

Rechargeable AA and AAA cells, and some equipment packs.



Button & coin cells

READ THE CHEMISTRY MARKING

A shape, not a chemistry: may be lithium, silver oxide or another type.

Damaged, swollen, leaking or unusually hot?

Do not add to a routine battery container. Stop using it and seek specialist advice. If it smokes or catches fire: get out, raise the alarm and call 999. Do not tackle the fire.

Identification aid only — not a waste classification, packaging or transport approval.

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