

Green purchasing guidelines – dry cell batteries

The goal of these purchasing guidelines is to use and purchase environmentally preferable materials and products. Environmentally preferable products and services are those that have a reduced impact on human health and the environment when specifically compared with other products and services that serve the same purpose. Environmentally preferable purchasing is important because it can have a profound impact not just on the environment, but on human health, resource conservation and employee satisfaction.

There is an array of dry cell batteries or household batteries on the market including single use (primary) and rechargeable (secondary) batteries. The basic principles recommended for green purchasing of dry cell batteries include:

- where possible, choose the most appropriate battery chemistry for the application and where appropriate select rechargeable over single use batteries
- choose a brand or supplier that commits and subscribes to the Code of Conduct of the Australian Battery Recycling Initiative (ABRI)
- choose a brand or supplier that offers a collection and recycling program for all dry cell batteries
- ask suppliers for a description of their recycling program and confirm the credibility of the program
- go to www.batteryrecycling.org.au for information on dry cell battery manufacturers and suppliers and their respective collection and recycling programs.