

# LEAD ACID BATTERY RECYCLING

## Safe Handling

### The Importance of Safe Handling

A used lead acid battery (ULAB) can cause serious injury if not handled correctly:

- Battery casings can be brittle and break easily, so they should be handled carefully to avoid an acid spill.
- The sulphuric acid in batteries is highly corrosive and can cause chemical burns.
- Acid exposure can lead to skin irritation, eye damage and respiratory irritation.
- In marine environments the acid can produce hazardous chlorine gas if it mixes with salt water.
- Batteries can be very dense and heavy, so proper lifting techniques must be used to avoid back injuries.

### Personal Protective Equipment

A used lead acid battery may be damaged or may be missing a cap, so it is important to protect yourself from potentially leaking acid which can severely damage eyes and skin.

When handling used lead acid batteries ensure personal protective equipment (PPE) is supplied and worn.

Consult the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for the electrolyte (acid) to determine the correct type of PPE.

At a minimum, the recommended PPE should include:

- gloves that are acid resistant
- safety glasses
- acid resistant clothing
- safety boots.

**NOTE:** The information provided here is general in nature and provided for educational purposes only. Organisations must do their own research to understand their legal obligations and to ensure that they are compliant with all relevant laws and regulations. ABRI does not accept responsibility for any loss or damage occasioned by any person acting or refraining from action as a result of reliance on this document.

### Hygiene and First Aid

Always practice good hygiene and wash your hands after handling a battery and before eating.

If battery electrolyte contacts skin or eyes, flush the area immediately with plenty of clean water and seek medical attention if required.

Have an eyewash station in the designated storage area (or a sign indicating the location of the nearest eyewash station).



### Australian Battery Recycling Initiative

The Australian Battery Recycling Initiative is a not-for-profit association established in 2008 to promote responsible environmental management of batteries at end of life. More information on battery recycling can be found on their website at [www.batteryrecycling.org.au](http://www.batteryrecycling.org.au).



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