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New Transportation Regulations Hinder Battery Recycling

New rules on the shipment of batteries could lead to setbacks in battery recycling.

By Kirsten Hudson

July 2009 Web



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More batteries may end up in landfills after the Department of Transportation issued harsher battery shipping regulations.

Photo By moria/Courtesy Flickr

The [Department of Transportation](#) (DOT) recently issued tighter regulations on the shipment of batteries that will mean bad news for battery recycling.

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The DOT now [requires](#) that batteries sent to battery recycling centers be individually bagged in plastic or have both ends taped up. This means cities with battery collection programs may not have the resources to maintain their programs with the extra hassle of these regulations.

And that means more batteries back in the landfill.

These new rules also [fine battery collectors](#) that sort or ship the different types of batteries incorrectly, which could lead to groups that recycle not wanting to take on the responsibility and shutting down their programs.

The DOT added these new regulations because of an [accident](#) last year where a truck caught on fire because of a leak from a lead acid battery. Lead acid batteries are a type of wet cell battery, while the batteries that we use every day, such as AA's, are dry cell batteries. Before, the DOT mainly enforced harsher regulations on shipping wet cell batteries, but these new regulations include dry cell batteries too.

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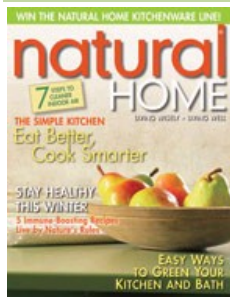
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