Dry Cell Batteries

Dry Cell batteries can be either single use or rechargeable. Some types of dry cell batteries contain heavy metals including mercury, nickel, cadmium, and silver. All of these metals can adversely affect human health and the environment if not recycled. If these batteries are discarded into the trash, they either end up in a landfill or are incinerated and can cause ground water and air pollution.

Correct:
- Recycle your used batteries by placing them in a container labeled “Batteries for Recycle”. Keep the lid closed unless you are adding batteries. Separate them out by type. ALL ENDS OR TERMINALS MUST BE TAPE OR CAPPED. Then you should request a pick-up here at https://itsapps.unc.edu/HazMat_Pickup/NonPI
- Purchase batteries that contain less hazardous ingredients. For example, use alkaline batteries instead of mercury button cells.
- Use rechargeable batteries whenever possible.
- Reduce battery usage. Consider purchasing plug-in products instead of battery powered products.

Incorrect:
- Do Not place rechargeable nickel-cadmium, button cells, mercuric oxide, silver oxide, lithium, or lead acid batteries in the trash.