

Episode 10: Batteries Alison: Hello everyone and welcome to Episode 10 of our 'Waste a minute series' of videos and today we would like to share with you some hints and tips on how to recycle more efficiently. In particular today, we would like to talk about what we do with batteries. So I have Hazel here with me, who is our battery guru. Hazel.

Hazel: Hello Alison and hello everybody. Regarding batteries - it's really important not to put them in any of your bins. The reason for this is that they can cause fires. The waste truck that takes away your waste. They can cause a fire in there. Also they can cause a fire at the Waste Transfer Station. So really for safety reasons, it's important not to put batteries in the bin. So where do we put batteries? We can take them to supermarkets and other shops. Basically places that sell batteries also receive them for recycling. We can also take them to the Household waste sites. The same applies to electrical items. Small electrical items and larger electrical items, they need to go to the Household waste site.

Visit the 'Recycle your electricals' website for battery and electricals recycling options.

Alison: Oh right. So I wondered about hoovers. Somebody mentioned it to me the other day, she said there is a battery in a Hoover. I never really thought about that but they've got batteries in?

Hazel: Yes some of them have. I think the ones that you don't have to plug in, so if you've got one that can be operated without a wire, they have a battery in there so they can carry on running without being plugged into the mains. The battery in there would need to go to Household waste site or indeed the Hoover itself, if it's no longer working.

Alison: Right ok, that's really helpful. Are there any other items that have got hidden batteries that we wouldn't necessarily think straightaway that's got a battery in it?

Hazel: Yeah, there are quite a few things really that you wouldn't think about having a battery in there. So mobile phones, hearing aids, thermometers as in the type of electronic thermometer that have at home. These have batteries in them. Probably the more obvious example is a watch. So really there are quite a lot of household things that contain batteries. Some of them are quite small so those batteries can easily go to the supermarket or shop for recycling. Some are larger so would need to go the Household waste site.

Alison: So it like if you had an old cordless toothbrush, that would have a battery in it somewhere?

Hazel: Yes it would. I don't use that type of toothbrush in my house but from what I remember those batteries come out quite easily.

Alison: But again you can't put them in your bin.

Hazel: That's the key message really – don't bin batteries. Batteries are one of the main contaminants in this area. We do end up with batteries in the waste stream, which is not what we want. Alison: So the message is, think of our lads that are sorting out the waste and collecting the waste and don't put your batteries in the bin because they can cause fires. Ok thank you for your time today.