

Where do old vehicle batteries end up?

Mobile Battery Service makes sure all are recycled

A breakthrough in recycling is under the hood of your vehicle. In the U.S., 99% of lead-acid automotive batteries are recycled, making them one of the most recycled products on the market.

Recycling an old battery reduces waste and removes a potential hazard from a landfill or your home. It's a win-win situation, as drivers and the environment benefit.

Each battery has nearly 21 pounds of lead and a quart of sulfuric acid. Using a special shredder, the plastic is chipped, washed and sent to a plastics plant, where it is melted and made into new battery cases or other parts.

The lead is melted and poured into ingots for use in new batteries. Sulfuric acid is neutralized and turned into water or converted into sodium sulfate that is used in laundry detergent and other products.

A new generation of electric vehicles will bring a significant increase in the number of batteries on the road and concerns about how those advanced lithium-ion batteries will be recycled after their 10 to 15 years of usage. Carmakers like Volkswagen, which plans to build 1 million electric vehicles yearly by 2025, already is working to develop a robust second life for the batteries that will power them.

Batteries eventually lose the ability



HOLDS A CHARGE – AAA batteries have a three-year, free-replacement warranty. *Image: AAA.*

to hold energy. A lead-acid battery's lifespan depends on a variety of factors, but only about 30% of batteries sold today will see their third birthday. Car batteries need to work in huge temperature extremes and stand up to constant shocks and vibrations. Multiple onboard computers, and powertrain features like stop-start technology, heat-

ed seats, wireless hotspots and video displays have created a new level of demand for electrical power.

If your battery is failing you, AAA Mobile Battery Service has trained technicians who perform a free test of your car's battery, starting and charging systems. State-of-the-art diagnostic equipment will confirm whether your battery

will hold a charge, or if the problem lies deeper in the electrical system. Best of all, the technicians come to you and the service is included with your AAA membership. If necessary, and with your approval, they will install a new high-quality AAA battery on the spot.

Designed to meet or exceed your vehicle's original equipment design and power specifications, AAA batteries offer 100% free-replacement warranty for the first three years. Battery-service vehicles carry batteries compatible with 90% of all cars, SUVs and light trucks.

Every battery that AAA replaces is safely recycled at an EPA-certified facility to conserve natural resources and protect the environment. AAA Mobile Battery Service has recycled more than 4 million automotive batteries, containing 90 million pounds of lead and 12 million pounds of plastic, helping to make car batteries the most-recycled consumer product in America.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

AAA Mobile Battery Service is available from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. 7 days a week. To verify availability in your area, call our toll-free number: 1-800-222-4357 for a no-cost evaluation.

Safe habits wise at the school bus stop

Teaching, reminding students how to enter, exit vehicle essential

More than 25 million students nationwide take a bus to and from school daily. Design and safety features make school buses the safest way to transport children.

Flashing red lights, crossview mirrors and stop-sign arms allow buses to meet high standards that are essential in protecting students. They also incorporate energy-absorbing seatbacks, high-crush standards and rollover protection.

Students are 70% more likely to get to school safely by taking a bus than traveling by car, according to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Children often are killed away from a bus during loading and unloading operations than while traveling on it.

The beginning of a new school year is upon us and it's important that parents and children familiarize themselves with traffic-safety rules. Following certain practices enhance school bus safety and reduce concern of an accident.

Parents should make sure their children aren't late to their bus stops. They should arrive at least five minutes before the bus is scheduled for pickup. Acquaint your child with the bus stop. Let them know to remain at least six feet away from the curb and remind them that the stop is not a place to run



CATCHING A BUS – Children should practice proper safety habits when riding a bus to school. *Image: Stuart Monk. Adobe Stock.*

or play.

Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop, with the door open and the bus driver indicating it's OK to board, before approaching the bus door.

Children never should walk behind a school bus. Should a child need to cross a street have them walk on a sidewalk or along the side of the street

to a place at least 10 feet in front of the bus before crossing. It's essential to make eye contact with the bus driver before crossing to make sure the driver is aware of the child crossing.

Remind your children to pay attention to the surroundings as they are traveling. Teach them to count the number of stops the bus makes before

they get to and from school.

Check notifications, emails, texts, weather alerts and local and social media to make sure you are updated on school-related news like closures, delays, driver changes and other issues. Notify the school if your child has an appointment, sick day or will be getting off at a different stop. This way, administrators can accommodate the change.

Drivers, meanwhile, should remember that every state has a law that makes it illegal to pass a school bus that has its red lights flashing and stop-arm extended while it is stopped on undivided highways to load and unload students. Bus drivers use a "flashing-signal-light system" to alert motorists. Yellow flashing lights indicate the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children. Drivers should drive slowly and prepare to stop.

Red-flashing lights and extended stop arms indicate the bus has stopped and children are entering or exiting the vehicle. Motorists must stop their cars and wait until the red lights stop flashing, the extended stop-arm is withdrawn, and the bus begins moving before putting their vehicles back in motion.

Children have been riding for nearly a century. We all know the routine, but it never hurts to remind ourselves of the best practices.