

ENVIRONMENTAL TIP: USE RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES...



...SAVE MONEY, SAVE RESOURCES: Rechargeable batteries cost 3 or 4 times as much as disposable batteries but they can be recharged typically 500 – 1000 times.

For example, single Duracell AA battery costs £1.19 for a disposable battery whereas a Duracell AA rechargeable battery costs £4.44. The mains cost of recharging a battery is 0.08p and so if you recharge it 400 times the total cost is £4.44. If you bought 400 disposable batteries the cost would be £476!

Even if you add in the cost of a charger at £23.99 it's still 17 times cheaper.

...CAPACITY: of rechargeable batteries is measured in milliamp hours or mAh. Lower capacity is fine for electric clocks, remote controllers and smoke detectors but a powerful torch or motorised toy will need a higher capacity.

...TYPES: non rechargeable batteries are mainly either alkaline or lithium-metal. Rechargeable batteries are NiMH (nickel metal hydride) or lithium-ion. Lithium-ion is probably the best choice because NiMH lose about 30% of their charge in a year of no use.

...CHARGERS: always use the correct charger for your type of battery (NiMH can have faster chargers) and NEVER attempt to recharge a non-rechargeable battery. Older NiCad rechargeable batteries had a 'memory' requiring careful charging regimes, this no longer applies so you can top them up at any time.

...RECYCLE: whatever their composition batteries should always be recycled as their chemicals will damage the environment if landfilled. There are plenty of battery recycling bins in shops and at the recycling centres. To our shame the UK only recycles 45% of its 600 million batteries each year.



The current arrangements for Holbeton includes all household batteries including 'button' batteries from watches, hearing aids etc., battery packs from household tools such as strimmers and battery packs from laptops or phones.

Batteries should be placed in a small clear tied bag, such as a sandwich bag or empty bread bag. Cover the contacts on lithium and button batteries with sticky tape to reduce fire risk.

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