**Something for the weekend.....Action #15: Batteries and more: be kerbside ready**

 It is not okay to chuck batteries in the bin.

Batteries contain chemicals including lead, cadmium, zinc, lithium and mercury.

Once in landfill, toxic chemicals leak into the ground. Both soil and water become contaminated, which is harmful to wildlife and humans.

So really, please don't do it. Not even a single teeny tiny one.

According to Let's Recycle, the UK's approx recycling rate of batteries was 44% last year. That is a lot of batteries left out. We, as consumers, need to play our part.

So if you have a collection of HOUSEHOLD\* batteries sitting around (AA, AAA, button and rechargeable batteries etc), disposing of them safely is easier than you think:

1. If you live in Bournemouth, simply bag the batteries up and leave them on top of your recycling bin. Label if not clear. Yes, they will be collected from your doorstep!

2. Pop them to a local collection point - at [Southbourne Library](https://www.facebook.com/southbournelibrary/?ref=gs&__tn__=%2CdK-R-R&eid=ARBcEhaah4E5ulByxh1zmtm-akSHuU09N1eUu2a0EtAQb7qzANgEWoqvfWB8xJgbMUxzZ9LkrGOg3gRf&fref=gs&dti=308664193075982&hc_location=group) or [Beaufort Community Centre](https://www.facebook.com/beaufortcommunitycentre/?ref=gs&__tn__=%2CdK-R-R&eid=ARCbLqBu3pQ5d5kui-jicNxCLnQB64G4OswRyDnVbqU__X3IiFT6-5xUhP7fh_rQ3OY7w4jKUvQtZOcW&fref=gs&dti=308664193075982&hc_location=group) - in fact most supermarkets and larger chain stores such as Boots host one if you live further afield.

That's it. Job done. Almost....

Next time you go to buy a product requiring batteries, consider:

Do I really need this product? Would another item suffice (particularly when it comes to kids toys).

  Is there an alternative option which is mains, solar powered or fitted with a winding mechanism? (from fairy lights, bicycle lights and torches; to portable radios).

If neither of the above are feasible, invest in rechargeable batteries.

\*for advice about disposing of other types of battery, see [https://www.recyclenow.com/what-to-do-with/batteries-1](https://www.recyclenow.com/what-to-do-with/batteries-1?fbclid=IwAR1E8zE8ISC7UxHy9TDbGbfiN7PzQa4J2gzWRc7oaE8lNw7cU067c51ytWQ).

Did you also know in Bournemouth the following SMALL electrical items are included in kerbside collections:

• Small kitchen appliances – kettles, sandwich makers, electric scales

• Small living room equipment – clocks, telephone and answering machines

• Small domestic equipment – irons, smoke alarms, heat detectors

• Personal care equipment – rechargeable electric toothbrushes (excluding battery powered), shavers, hair dryers, razors

• Small DIY/garden tools – drills and sanders

• Gadgets - cameras, mp3 players and mobiles

• Electrical wire/extension leads

Again, just leave them on top of your recycling bin on your allocated collection day. For more info see [https://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/…/RecyclingElectricalGadgets…](https://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/binsrecycling/recyclingrecyclingcentres/RecyclingElectricalGadgets.aspx?fbclid=IwAR07Rix2COL4Qe49qYlSTbueYyIYyMOD46AEE1to2E_Umx5F5KwT0c8Syew)

Of course, if you have one of the above items that still works, pop in on [Sobo recycle](https://www.facebook.com/soborecycle/?ref=gs&__tn__=%2CdK-R-R&eid=ARBiWY-kZWGGr96dC0UJFYXwXw4YyMWlFI36u9JERAfAU3vf5g482_NrGVl7OZO2HgWYqwFA1aXN2Z3o&fref=gs&dti=308664193075982&hc_location=group) if it doesn't work, consider taking it along to the next [Bournemouth Repair Cafe](https://www.facebook.com/RepairCafeBH/?ref=gs&__tn__=%2CdK-R-R&eid=ARCKgZ3N2IgBfD7o9h_xsTDvm1u_VA-hNAb8RAZbxtrYWN96pGAvxqOVp1jza9jAxqbIQ35i5OBJhqbC&fref=gs&dti=308664193075982&hc_location=group) to see if it can be revived....with the next one coming up on Saturday 20th July….