

Battery collections and child safety considerations.

Recycling programs help to educate children on the importance of environmental matters and communicate how positive action can help to reduce pollution and protect the planet.

Whilst they are an excellent educational and behavioural learning opportunity, **batteries pose safety risks to children and can result in significant harm if they are ingested.**



If you choose to have a battery container on your premises, it is important that you fully consider any associated safety risks to children. Batteries pose a serious hazard and guidance has been produced to assist with raising awareness of such risks. **One source of guidance is the British Standards Institute Guidance PAS**

7055:2021 (available for free online) which has been produced in conjunction with the Office for Product Safety and Standards. We highly recommend you read this guidance.

You should evaluate your own unique premises and ensure that you undertake a suitable and sufficient risk assessment to guard against not just the general risks associated with batteries but also the specific risks of adopting a battery collection unit where children are involved in the recycling scheme – **ideally consulting with a competent health and safety advisor if you do not have the appropriate expertise in house.**



Each organisation's location is different, but you may want to at least consider the following points:

- Disposal location and position of the collection unit to ensure that children cannot reach or access the batteries – recycling units should be sited in clear view of a member of staff to facilitate ease of monitoring.
- Consider the type of container ordered. The Standard recommends opaque containers to keep batteries out of view along with any means to mitigate access to the batteries; Ensure appropriate warning information, such as posters, is displayed.
- Ensure units are emptied on a regular basis.

For more information contact us on:

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