

PRESS RELEASE



NATIONAL WASTE AND RECYCLING ASSOCIATION GIVES GUIDANCE ON PROPER DISPOSAL OF DEFECTIVE HOVERBOARDS

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NWRA Wants Consumers to Know Not to Place Discarded Batteries and Hoverboards in Recycling Bins or Household Trash Containers

Washington D.C. – March 30, 2016 – The National Waste & Recycling Association (NWRA) today has issued guidance on the proper disposal of hoverboards. Media reports from around the nation have documented cases of fire as a result of over-charging of the batteries in the device, while airlines and some shipping companies will no longer handle them. NWRA is advising consumers when they are discarding these devices not to place them in their recycling or trash bins.

Instead, NWRA is providing the following guidance: Consumers should contact a local electronics recycling center if one is available in their area, as hoverboards use lithium-ion batteries, similar to those found in laptop computers. If there is no access to a local electronics recycler, consumers should contact their local waste services provider, municipal or county waste service, and inquire if they can be dropped off at the same locations where those companies and local governments accept other products with lithium ion batteries.

Call2Recycle, a non-profit organization not affiliated with NWRA, offers resources to consumers in the United States and Canada who are seeking guidance on how to properly recycle the lithium ion batteries that power hoverboard products. Consumers can contact Call2Recycle customer service toll-free at 877-723-1297, and Call2Recycle also offers a free drop-off collection site locator, which can be accessed online at call2recycle.org.

“A core focus of NWRA and its member companies is to educate consumers on what household items can properly be recycled,” commented Sharon H. Kneiss, president and chief executive officer of NWRA. “Hoverboards, like other electronics, most batteries, and household hazardous waste items, require special handling, and they should not be placed in recycling or trash bins.”

Our organization has worked closely with the public and private sectors to find solutions for the responsible and safe disposal of spent batteries. In the case of damaged batteries from hoverboards, there are special requirements set forth by national authorities in the U.S. and Canada for the handling of damaged and/or defective lithium-based batteries so we encourage consumers to get informed about how to dispose of them,” said Carl E. Smith, CEO & President of Call2Recycle, Inc.

NWRA maintains a website on the most common items that are appropriate for household recycling, beginwiththebin.org. For items requiring special handling, NWRA recommends that consumers contact their local waste and recycling company, or their municipal or county waste service.

ABOUT CALL2RECYCLE

Call2Recycle, Inc. (Call2Recycle) is North America’s premier product stewardship organization dedicated to minimizing the environmental impacts of products in the marketplace. Operating across Canada and the U.S., its marquee battery recycling program Call2Recycle® is the oldest and largest consumer battery stewardship program. Collecting and recycling batteries for retailers, municipalities, businesses and consumers through its network of close to 30,000 collection sites, over 45 million kilograms (100 million pounds) of batteries and cellphones have been diverted from the solid waste stream. Learn more at call2recycle.ca or call2recycle.org.

ABOUT NWRA

The National Waste & Recycling Association is the leading organization providing leadership, advocacy, research, education and safety expertise for the waste and recycling industries. NWRA advocates at the Federal, State and Local levels on all issues of importance to our member companies as they provide safe, economically sustainable and environmentally sound services to communities in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Visit wasterecycling.org for more information.

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