

Important Note: The following text is excerpted directly from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's publication, *Environmental Compliance, Pollution Prevention, and Self Assessment Guide for the Marina Industry*. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Pollution Prevention Unit. March 2003. The only changes that have been made are the addition of links to pertinent resources or regulations and Editor's Notes, where appropriate.

Lead Acid Batteries

REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW YORK

If your lead-acid batteries are recycled, they do not have to be counted as hazardous waste, but are still subject to limited hazardous waste regulations, such as storage requirements. Lead acid batteries should be properly stored off the ground and should have proper containment in case of leaks. These batteries should be covered if stored outside to prevent the corrosive battery acid (which is usually hazardous) from being washed in the ground during rain or snow storms. If your lead acid batteries are not recycled, they must be managed under the traditional regulatory scheme as non-exempt hazardous waste.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Follow these tips for good management of lead acid batteries:

- Use an authorized recycler.
- Indoor storage is recommended for lead acid batteries.
- Store batteries on an acid-resistant rack or tub.
- Batteries stored outside should be stored on impermeable surfaces and should have secondary containment. Also, it is recommended that batteries be covered to prevent acid run off.
- Keep a neutralizing agent, such as baking soda nearby in case of leaks or spills. If a spill does occur, the waste must be treated as a hazardous waste.
- When stacking batteries, make sure they are stored so that any fluid from leaking batteries will not be released to the environment.
- Electrolyte fluid in spent batteries contains a sufficient quantity of lead to make it a hazardous waste. This fluid, if discharged onto the ground, will frequently make the soil which absorbs it a hazardous waste.