



## AAA/CAA Great Battery Roundup® Fast Facts

Congratulations! Your recycling efforts – exchanging dead battery cores for every battery you install – keep millions of pounds of harmful lead, acid and plastic from landfills and waterways.

### AAA GREAT BATTERY ROUNDUP

Every day you will meet members who are unfamiliar with your environmentally friendly efforts. Here are some conversation starters that will help you remind them of your good work.

- Failed batteries account for millions of road service calls each year.
- Each year more than 72 million replacement batteries are sold for passenger and light commercial vehicles in the United States.
- AAA/CAA has resolved some 8 million member vehicle breakdowns through the installation of a new battery with mobile battery service.
- Participating AAA/CAA clubs sponsor battery collections called the AAA or CAA Great Battery Roundup® to help raise awareness about battery recycling.
- The lead in car and marine batteries is among the most highly recycled materials. With the mobile battery service and recycling events, AAA and CAA clubs have recycled a combined total of more than 8 million batteries.
- Lead-acid batteries have three major components: lead, acid and plastic. When a battery is recycled, here's what happens to all three materials:
  - Most of the **lead** in an automotive battery can be reclaimed and used to manufacture a new battery. The lead is recycled and reused indefinitely.
  - The **sulfuric acid** can be recycled and used in new batteries. It can be neutralized, purified and tested before being released as clean water; or it can be converted to sodium sulfate, a product used in fertilizer, dyes and other products.
  - Most battery cases are black because the cases have been made from plastic recycled from spent battery cases. When various colors are melted together, they become black.
- Lead-acid battery recycling and disposal laws have been passed in 43 states in the United States. Most laws require buyers of new lead batteries to turn in spent batteries at the time of purchase, or pay a deposit.
- Lead costs are on the rise, so recycling spent batteries not only protects the environment but it also reclaims valuable lead and plastic for manufacturing, saving energy and money on raw materials.