Standards Australia

Button Batteries



What you need to know

Button batteries are small, disc-shaped batteries commonly used in various household items like remote controls, toys, watches, and many more. While they are convenient, they can pose serious safety risks, especially to young children if swallowed and can cause life threatening damage. Even used button batteries can cause harm and should be handled with care.

What to look for when buying

Warning Labels – If it doesn't have one it's not compliant with the Australian Standard

- **Alert Words:** Look for alert words like "DANGER," "WARNING," or "CAUTION" in uppercase letters on the packaging.
- **Safety Symbols:** Check for internationally recognised safety symbols, such as the "Keep out of reach of children" and "Warning" symbols. These symbols should be easy to see.



- **Hazard Information:** The packaging or product should clearly state that the battery is hazardous and must be kept away from children. It should also mention the severe or fatal injuries that can occur if the battery is swallowed or inserted into any part of the body.

Child-Resistant Battery Packaging – It should be difficult for an adult to open

- **Single Battery Packaging:** They should be in child resistant packaging, meaning it is tough to open.
- **Multi-Battery Packaging:** If buying multiple batteries, check that each battery is individually contained within the packaging, they should not all be loose within the package once you open it.

Products containing a button battery should have a difficult-to-open battery compartment

- **Safety Information:** The product packaging should include clear safety information and a warning about the button battery inside.
- **Battery Securement:** The product should have a secure battery compartment. It should need a tool/lever (e.g. screwdriver) or require 2 simultaneous independent movements such as "squeeze and twist" in order to access the battery compartment.

Storage and disposal

- Store unused batteries high up and out of reach of children.
- When you are ready to dispose of the battery, cover both sides with clear sticky tape and remove it from your home. This lowers the risk of ingestion and also fires in household bins. It is recommend that you take it to a battery recycling drop off point bcycle.com.au/drop-off.

In case of emergency

If you suspect your child has swallowed a button battery call the Australian Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26. If your child shows signs of bleeding or difficulty breathing, then call 000.

If you see a product that you think doesn't comply, please see ACCC's report unsafe product page.

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To read the relevant standard, AS 5347:2023, *Button/coin batteries and consumer goods that use button/coin batteries – Safety for consumers*, visit our Reader Room at readerroom.standards.org.au