

# Button or Coin Cell Batteries

These small flat batteries are used in a variety of consumer products including children's toys, watches, hearing aids, and medical devices. In concert with the growing demand for products to be smaller and easier to transport, use of button or coin cell batteries continues to grow.

They are single use, meaning they cannot be recharged and need to be replaced once their charge is depleted. At any given time, a consumer may have a collection of button or coin cell batteries on hand to replace used batteries and a supply of used batteries awaiting delivery to recycling centers.

Button or coin cell batteries may spark and cause fires if damaged and it is recommended that they be kept in separate plastic bags or containers to prevent the terminal ends from touching. These batteries also present a unique safety risk to children, who often put objects in their mouths to explore the world. If ingested, water or saliva in the body creates a conduit for electrical current to the battery that triggers chemical reactions producing hydroxide, a caustic ion that can cause serious burns to the tissue. Early symptoms can be overlooked and damage to the body can lead to serious injury and even death.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) reports that button cell or coin batteries are associated with thousands of emergency department visits every year. On 16 August 2022, U.S. President Biden signed "Reece's Law" (H.R. 5313) into Law to protect children and other consumers from the dangers posed by button cell or coin batteries found in everyday household items. The law directed the CPSC to establish a mandatory standard for button cell or coin batteries.

While still in development, the proposed CPSC rule would establish performance, labeling and other related requirements as mandated by Reese's Law including requiring that batteries sold separately or included separately with a product comply with federal child-resistant packaging regulations provided in 16 CFR Part 1700.15, as determined through testing in accordance with the method described in 16 CFR Part 1700.20, or another test method for button cell or coin battery packaging specified by the CPSC.