

# Loss Prevention Safety Tips

## 9-VOLT BATTERY SAFETY

9-volt batteries power our smoke alarms, household items and toys and can be found in most homes. These batteries can be a fire hazard if not stored safely or disposed of with care.

### The Problem

- 9-volt batteries can be dangerous as the positive and negative posts are very close together. If a metal object touches the two posts of a 9-volt battery, it can cause a short circuit which can make enough heat to start a fire.
- It is unsafe to store 9-volt batteries in a drawer near paper clips, coins, pens, batteries or other metal objects. Do not store common household items such as steel wool, aluminum foil and keys near 9-volt batteries. If these items touch the two posts, there is a greater risk of a fire starting.
- Weak batteries may have enough charge to cause a fire. Some fires have started in trash when 9-volt batteries were thrown away with other metal items.

### Storing 9-Volt Batteries

- Keep batteries in their original packaging until you are ready to use them. If loose, keep the posts covered with masking, duct or electrical tape. Prevent the posts from coming in contact with metal objects.
- Keep them someplace safe where they won't be tossed around and store batteries standing up.
- 9-volt batteries should not be stored loose in a drawer. Do not store them in containers with other batteries.

### Safe Disposal

- 9-volt batteries should not be thrown away with trash as they can come in contact with other batteries or pieces of metal.
- 9-volt batteries can be taken to a collection site for household hazardous waste.
- To be safe, cover the positive and negative posts with masking, duct or electrical tape before getting rid of batteries.



Source: NFPA Public Education Division

**See more loss prevention tips at [www.preventingloss.com](http://www.preventingloss.com)**

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