

# HOW-STUFF-WORKS: AN ELECTROCHEMICAL CELL OR BATTERY

BATTERIES OR ELECTROCHEMICAL CELLS are devices that store electrical energy in chemical form.

A cell has three main parts:

1. **positive electrode**
2. **negative electrode**
3. liquid or solid separating them called the **electrolyte**.

## Rechargeable Batteries:

- When electrical energy from an outside source is applied to a secondary cell, the negative-to-positive electron flow that occurs during discharge is reversed, and the cell's charge is restored.
- The most common rechargeable batteries on the market today are **lithium-ion** though **nickel-metal hydride (NiMH)** and **nickel-cadmium (NiCd)** batteries were also once very prevalent.

