

Dry cells

The dry cell is a very common form of battery which consists of a central positive carbon electrode surrounded by a mixture of manganese(IV) oxide and powdered carbon. This is surrounded by a paste containing ammonium chloride and the whole thing is encased in a shell of zinc which forms the negative electrode. The ammonium chloride is the electrolyte in the cell. The manganese dioxide helps to remove a build up of hydrogen around the carbon rod, which would stop the cell working. Batteries of this construction are the most commonly used and are available in a variety of sizes, delivering electromotive forces of 1.5 V to 9 V.