



Zinc-Air Battery

• Zinc – air batteries are more popular. Zinc air batteries are the batteries which breathe air, that is, they use oxygen directly from the air to bring about the electrochemical reaction.

Construction

- Anode is composed of granulated zinc powder
- Cathode is made up of porous carbon plates for the entry of air or O₂ into the cell and Electrolyte contains 30% KOH.
- Cathode is provided with thin layers of Teflon to prevent the entry of moisture from the air.
- The container is made of glass and has a separator made of nylon.







The reactions involved in the cell are:

At the anode:

Zn	→	$Zn^{2+} + 2e^{-}$
Zn ²⁺ + 2OH ⁻	→	$ZnO + H_2O$
Zn + 2OH-	→	ZnO+H ₂ O+2e ⁻

At the cathode:

 $H_2O+^{1}_{/2}O_2+2e \longrightarrow$ $2OH^-$

The over all cell reaction :

 $Zn+^{1}_{/2}O_{2}$ \longrightarrow ZnO

The battery offers an EMF of 1.25-1.35V.

Advantages

- These are light and have high energy density.
- These are relatively eco-friendly and have unlimited capacity.

Disadvantage

• These suffer from low shelf life still, they are known for low energy cost.