

Lithium-Ion Batteries

Factsheet



Lithium-ion batteries pose a serious fire risk. When they fail, they can release intense energy, causing explosions, highly toxic fumes, and secondary ignitions – even after the flames are extinguished.

Why it matters

Damaged lithium-ion batteries, or incorrect charging, storage, or disposal of these batteries, can cause them to overheat and start a fire.

What are lithium-ion batteries?

Lithium-ion batteries are found in many common household items, including mobile phones, laptops, e-bikes, e-scooters, and power tools.

In case of fire

Evacuate the area immediately and close doors behind you if it is safe to do so. Get out, stay out, and call 000. If you have been exposed to smoke or vapours, seek urgent medical attention.

Only buy compliant products

When purchasing devices, always check that they display the Australian Regulatory Compliance Mark (tick symbol), which indicates they meet local safety standards.

Charging safety

Charge batteries on a hard, non-flammable surface such as tiles or concrete floors. Do not charge on soft surfaces like beds, sofas, or carpet. Only charge batteries when you are at home and never while sleeping. Once

fully charged, disconnect the device from the charger.

Avoid using chargers with the wrong voltage or current, as this can damage the battery or cause it to overheat. Do not charge batteries that have been exposed to heat or extreme temperatures.

E-scooters and e-bikes

E-scooters and e-bikes contain lithium-ion batteries and should be stored outside the home. Charge them in a shed, carport, or garage—away from living spaces and exits.

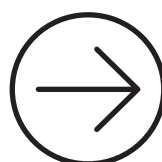
Disposal

Lithium-ion batteries must not be placed in household garbage or recycling bins. Small, undamaged batteries (that are not swollen, punctured, or leaking) can be safely disposed of at designated battery recycling drop-off points.

Before disposal, cover the battery terminals with clear adhesive tape and place the battery carefully into a recycling collection bin.

Warning signs

Do not use or charge batteries that are swelling, bulging, leaking, or overheating. Avoid using any device that appears cracked, dented, punctured, or crushed. If the charger did not come with the device or battery, do not use it.



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