



LITHIUM-ION BATTERY SAFETY



Want to sort your fire safety?



Many modern devices, like phones, laptops, tools, e-scooters and vapes, are powered by lightweight lithium-ion batteries.

It is important to use these devices correctly to prevent them from overheating and potentially catching fire and/or exploding.

USING BATTERIES SAFELY

Most of the time, lithium-ion batteries are safe to use. However, it is important that you charge and use them correctly to prevent a fire from happening.

To do this, you need to look after your devices and replace the batteries at any sign of damage.

How to keep your batteries safe

- ⚡ Check the battery for any damage before charging. Look out for things like dents, swelling or the battery being hot to touch
- ⚡ Keep the device cool – never leave it in direct sunlight or a hot car
- ⚡ If you drop your device or battery, replace the battery with one from the manufacturer.

How to charge your batteries safely

- ⚡ Charge your device on a hard flat surface and make sure it is not covered by blankets, pillows, or anything else that could prevent it from remaining cool. Never charge your device on your bed or a couch
- ⚡ Charge your device while you are awake and around, so you can respond to anything that may happen while your device is charging
- ⚡ Unplug your device once it is fully charged to prevent it from overcharging
- ⚡ Charge e-scooters and e-bikes in a garage or away from exit routes to prevent them from blocking your escape path
- ⚡ If you notice your battery is hot to touch while charging, unplug it immediately and replace it with a battery from the manufacturer
- ⚡ Only use the correct or approved chargers for your device.

WHAT DO TO WITH OLD OR DAMAGED BATTERIES

Unlike other household items, batteries and e-waste cannot go into our household rubbish or recycling. Putting batteries or e-waste into household rubbish or recycling can lead to fires in rubbish collection trucks or refuse centres.

You must dispose of batteries at battery recycling centres or battery collection points. If the battery is not damaged, we recommend you tape the battery terminals with electrical tape before placing them in battery collection bins.

How to spot a damaged battery

- ⚡ The battery or device has been exposed to fire or submerged in water
- ⚡ The battery or device is too hot to touch, either while it is charging, or you are using it
- ⚡ The battery is emitting smoke or vapour
- ⚡ The battery shows signs of swelling or bulging, leaking, cracks, dents, punctures or crushing.

What to do if your battery is damaged

It is important you do not touch or pick up a battery that is emitting smoke, vapour and/or flames. If this happens, exit the building immediately and call 111.

If your battery is showing other signs of damage, take the following steps:

- ⚡ Put on protective eye wear and gloves
- ⚡ If possible, remove the battery from the device. If you cannot remove the battery place the whole device in water to prevent it from igniting
- ⚡ Place small batteries in water to prevent them from igniting
- ⚡ If you are unable to take the battery to a battery recycling centre immediately, store the battery (submerged in water) at least 3 m away from any buildings or flammable plants
- ⚡ Take the battery to a battery recycling centre. Make sure you contact the centre beforehand to confirm they accept damaged batteries.