

Battery & Charging Safety in the Home: Fact Sheet



Lithium-Ion batteries are the fastest growing fire risk in New South Wales. It is important to understand how to manage the risks and be prepared if things go wrong.

Where do I find a lithium-ion battery?

- Lithium-Ion batteries are found in small portable devices like your phone, laptop, and power-tools and in a larger version in e-bikes, e-scooters and skateboards and cars.

Why are they dangerous?

- Lithium-Ion batteries can contain a huge amount of energy in a relatively small space.
- When the battery fails that energy is released and can cause explosions, toxic fumes, and secondary ignitions - even after the flames have been extinguished.

What can I do to stay safe?

- Make sure your smoke alarm is working in rooms where batteries are charged or stored.
- If your alarm is not working, you should call us immediately on 1800 004 300 and request a repair.
- Charge batteries on hard surfaces that don't catch fire, like concrete floors or tiles. Don't charge them on the bed, sofa, or carpet.
- Once your device is charged to 100% disconnect it from the charger.
- Make sure your charger has the correct voltage and output for the device, otherwise it can overheat.
- Only use chargers which have the Australian Regulatory Compliance Tick Mark.
- If you own an e-bike, scooter, skateboard, or power tools make sure you charge these in the shed or garage, away from your living spaces and exits.

When is the best time to charge devices?

- Don't charge batteries when you sleep or are not at home.
- You should never use and charge your devices at the same time in bed. They can overheat and catch on fire if you leave them on sheets or blankets.
- If the battery has been exposed to heat or extreme temperatures don't use it.



How do I get rid of old batteries safely?

- Lithium-Ion batteries can not be put in your rubbish or recycling bins as they can be a fire risk.
- You should take small, undamaged batteries to a recycling drop off point.
- To find a recycling drop off point near you, check the B-Cycle website www.bcycle.com.au
- Damaged batteries should be stored in a well-ventilated area away from structures or material that could catch fire.
- Take leaking or damaged batteries in a clear plastic bag or container to a Community Recycling Centre.

Translation Service

- If you need an interpreter to assist with this document, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) for free on **131 450**. Ask them to call Hume Community Housing on **1800 004 300**.

Assyrian

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بۆ به‌خه‌ریه‌كێك. كه‌شێك به‌تۆكە وێتۆك،
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له‌جێهه‌كێك به‌خه‌ریه‌كێك خه‌ 1800 004 300

Arabic

إذا كنت بحاجة إلى مترجم فوري للمساعدة في فهم هذا المستند، فيرجى الاتصال بخدمة الترجمة التحريرية والفورية (TIS National) مجانًا على 131 450 اطلب منهم الاتصال بـ Community Housing Hume على 1800 004 300

For your nearest location check the Environmental Protection Agency website www.epa.nsw.gov.au

What are the warning signs to look out for?

You should look out for:

- strong smells, discolouration, blistering or swelling of the casing or leaking electrolytes.
- your device heating up and hot to the touch and/or there is strange popping, hissing or crackling sounds.

What should I do if my device is overheating, smoking or catches fire?

- Unplug the device if it is overheating and you are charging it.
- If you can, move it safely outside.
- Small flames can be extinguished with a bucket of water or hose if it is unplugged and away from mains power.
- Evacuate the area and close the door if it is safe to do so.
- Call Triple Zero (000) even if the flames have gone out, as the device may reignite if not cool enough.

Chinese

如果您需要口译员帮助您阅读此文档，请拨打免费电话131 450，以联系口笔译服务机构 (TIS National)。接通后，请翻译员拨打1800 004 300，以联系 Hume Community Housing。

Spanish

Si necesita los servicios de un intérprete para este documento, llame gratis al Servicio de Traducción e Interpretación (TIS National) en el número 131 450. Pídale que llamen a Hume Community Housing en el número 1800 004 300.

Vietnamese

Nếu bạn cần thông dịch viên để hỗ trợ tài liệu này, thì vui lòng gọi cho Dịch vụ Biên dịch và Phiên dịch (TIS National) miễn phí theo số 131 450. Yêu cầu họ gọi cho Công ty Nhà ở Cộng đồng Hume (Hume Community Housing) theo số 1800 004 300.