

E-BIKES AND E-SCOOTERS

- ⚡ Purchase e-bikes and e-scooters from reputable sources
- ⚡ Only use the correct charger for your e-bikes and e-scooters
- ⚡ Avoid leaving e-bikes and e-scooters unattended during charging
- ⚡ Avoid charging e-bikes and e-scooters indoors wherever possible, and NEVER in an escape route
- ⚡ Disconnect fully charged e-bikes and e-scooters immediately
- ⚡ Never store or charge devices in direct sunlight, or anywhere exposed to heat or moisture
- ⚡ Avoid charging e-bikes and e-scooters on flammable surfaces, or near flammable items
- ⚡ Store charged e-bikes and e-scooters outside, or in a well-ventilated space, away from flammable items
- ⚡ Install approved smoke or heat alarms in e-bike and e-scooter storage areas.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES (EVs)

Basic safety for EV owners:

- ⚡ Only use correct or approved charging leads and sockets
- ⚡ Have charging equipment installed by qualified electricians
- ⚡ Install smoke or heat alarms in EV parking spaces
- ⚡ Be cautious when charging in wet conditions
- ⚡ Have your EV checked and serviced regularly.

If any incident occurs while using an EV:

- ⚡ Act quickly to make sure all passengers evacuate the vehicle
- ⚡ Make sure the park brake is engaged and the vehicle is switched off
- ⚡ Keep clear of the vehicle and warn passers-by to keep a safe distance away (at least 30 metres), even if you can't see smoke, vapours, or flames
- ⚡ Call 111 and inform the operator the vehicle involved is an EV

Damaged EVs:

An electric vehicle that has been involved in a collision, or damage from fire or water, must be treated with caution as the battery may be compromised. Damaged EV batteries may ignite hours, days, or even weeks after the initial incident.

Contact the vehicle manufacturer, and don't charge or use damaged EVs until professionally inspected.

WHAT IF I NOTICE A SMALL DEVICE OVERHEATING?

Take immediate measures if small devices begin to over-heat:

- ⚡ Unplug from power outlet if it is charging
- ⚡ Avoid inhaling any smoke or fumes
- ⚡ If possible, move it outside, away from any flammable material and windows or doorways
- ⚡ Small devices can be dropped into a bucket of water if this can be done safely
- ⚡ Small flames can be extinguished with water or a hose to stop fire spreading to nearby objects
- ⚡ If using a fire extinguisher (dry chemical powder or carbon dioxide), only attempt to from a safe distance, away from any smoke or vapours
- ⚡ Water and fire extinguishers may be used to prevent the spread of fire but are not likely to fully extinguish a lithium-ion battery fire
- ⚡ Call 111, even if you no longer see visible smoke or flames. There is a chance that the battery could reignite if it has not been sufficiently cooled.

HOW CAN I DISPOSE OF OR RECYCLE MY USED BATTERIES?

Lithium-ion batteries should not be placed into household waste or recycling bins, as they can cause fires during waste collection, transportation, and processing.

Undamaged batteries (not swollen, punctured, or leaking, etc.) can be safely disposed of at a battery recycling drop off point. It is recommended that battery terminals are taped over before placing them into battery recycling collection bins.

Batteries that show signs of damage including swelling, leaking, cracks, dents, punctures, or crushing should be disposed of carefully. Never throw them in your regular waste or recycling collection bins.

More information on where and how to dispose of used batteries can be found on your local Council website.



LITHIUM-ION BATTERY AND CHARGING SAFETY

Many modern devices are powered by lightweight, high-energy lithium-ion [li-ion] batteries. **These power our phones, laptops, tools, e-bikes, e-scooters, vapes and even cars.**

If not used correctly, these devices can overheat, catch fire, or explode. It's important to know the risks and how to manage them.

Here's how to keep you and your family safe.



WHAT CAUSES LITHIUM-ION BATTERY FIRES?

Lithium-ion batteries can catch fire for several reasons:

- ⚡ Overcharging or using incorrect chargers
- ⚡ Overheating or exposure to extreme temperatures
- ⚡ Physical damage like drops or punctures
- ⚡ Short-circuits, malfunctions, or manufacturing defects.

When these batteries fail, they can:

- ⚡ Emit toxic, flammable, and explosive gas
- ⚡ Cause intense, self-sustaining fires that are difficult to extinguish.



WHAT IF MY DEVICE OR BATTERY IS DAMAGED?

Batteries or devices that show any signs of damage should be disposed of carefully, as they are at higher risk of fire. Never throw batteries in your regular waste or recycling bins.

Damaged batteries and battery-powered devices include:

- ⚡ Batteries and/or devices that have been involved in or exposed to fire
- ⚡ Overheated batteries that may have been emitting vapours or smoke
- ⚡ Batteries that show signs of swelling or bulging, leaking, cracks, dents, punctures, or crushing
- ⚡ Batteries that have had water or liquid ingress or have been submerged in water.

Take care when handling damaged batteries or devices:

- ⚡ Wear protective gloves and eyewear
- ⚡ Keep damaged batteries outdoors, in well-ventilated areas
- ⚡ Maintain a distance of at least 3 meters from buildings and flammable material
- ⚡ Immerse small, damaged batteries or devices in water to prevent further ignition
- ⚡ If safe to, disconnect removable batteries from damaged devices
- ⚡ Place leaking or damaged (but not overheated) batteries in a clear plastic bag for disposal
- ⚡ Only dispose of damaged batteries and devices at approved e-waste recycling facilities.

WHAT IF MY DEVICE OR BATTERY IS SMOKING, OR ON FIRE?

Warning signs to look out for in a device or battery include:

- ⚡ Strong odours
- ⚡ Discolouration, blistering, bulging, or swelling of the casing
- ⚡ Leaking fluid
- ⚡ Heating up or feeling unusually warm to touch
- ⚡ Popping, hissing or crackling sounds
- ⚡ Smoke and fumes.

If your device or battery begins to smoke or emit flames:

- ⚡ Evacuate the area and close doors (if safe) to slow the spread of fire
- ⚡ Ensure no one goes back inside the building for any reason
- ⚡ Battery gases, vapour and smoke are highly toxic and flammable and must not be inhaled
- ⚡ Call 111 and wait in a safe location for firefighters to arrive
- ⚡ If anyone has been exposed to battery fluids, debris, smoke, vapours, or flames, seek urgent medical assistance
- ⚡ Burns should immediately be treated with cool running water for 20 minutes
- ⚡ Burns larger than a \$2 coin may require emergency care.

HOW DO I PREVENT DEVICE OR BATTERY FIRES?

- ⚡ Only buy genuine devices and equipment
- ⚡ Only buy devices and equipment from trustworthy manufacturers and retailers
- ⚡ Only use the correct and approved chargers for your device
- ⚡ Avoid leaving devices charging unattended or overnight
- ⚡ Disconnect fully charged batteries and devices
- ⚡ Never charge devices on flammable surfaces
- ⚡ Never charge your devices in bed, or on flammable material or surfaces
- ⚡ Avoid exposing devices to heat, moisture, or direct sunlight
- ⚡ Discard damaged devices showing signs of swelling, leakage or overheating
- ⚡ Installing approved smoke or heat alarms in charging areas will help give an early warning of extreme battery overheating or fire.