

Lithium-Ion Batteries

What are lithium-ion batteries?

Lithium-ion batteries are rechargeable batteries found within e-bikes, e-scooters, smartphones, power banks, laptops and other electronic devices.



Why are lithium-ion batteries dangerous?

In Australia, over 1000 domestic fires a year are caused by lithium-ion batteries. These electrical fires are intense, producing toxic smoke and flames.

How do I reduce my risk?

- Do not charge items when sleeping or away from home.
- Unplug devices once fully charged. Charge larger items in sheds, garages or other well-ventilated areas that are protected from direct sunlight, rain or moisture.
- Charge devices on non-flammable, hard surfaces.
- Keep devices away from flammable materials.
- Do not charge broken devices, or use broken chargers.
- Install smoke alarms near charging areas.

How do I dispose them safely?

Never dispose of lithium-ion batteries in general waste or recycling bins. Lithium-ion batteries should be disposed of accordingly:

- Larger batteries: place them in B-cycle drop off points, community recycling centres or household chemical cleanout events.
- Smaller batteries: battery recycling bins are located throughout your neighbourhood at shops and community centres. When disposing, cover the terminals with clear adhesive tape.

How to manage lithium-ion batteries safely

- Always follow manufacturer instructions.
- Charge batteries away from highly flammable and combustible items, such as beds or furniture.
- Only used approved chargers from the manufacturer or chargers that come with the product. Regularly check to see if devices and chargers are fit for use.

Do not:

- keep batteries in hot places or in direct sunlight.
- charge unattended.
- use chargers or devices if they are overheating, broken, or showing signs of failure.

If a device starts smoking or catches fire, call 000 immediately.

Tenant is used as a general term and includes Renter in Victoria, in line with Residential Tenancies Act 1997 (Vic) as amended.