

What are Lithium-Ion Batteries Used For?

Lithium-ion batteries store a large amount of energy in a compact space due to their high energy density. They power many types of electronics, including (not limited to): battery packs, e-bikes and e-scooters, phones and tablets, laptops, drones, and power tools.

Warning Signs of Battery Issues

⚠️ *Improper handling or damage can cause swelling, off-gassing, fire, or even explosion. Stop using or charging a battery if you notice any of the following:*

- 🔥 **Unusual smells** – chemical, burning, or electrical odors
- 🔥 **Overheating** – battery is hot to the touch or discolored
- 🔧 **Physical changes** – swelling, bulging, leaking, loose wires
- ⚡ **Performance issues** – strange noises, decreased battery life, sudden voltage drops
- 💥 **Physical damage** – especially after dropping the device

Battery Safety Tips

- **Buy certified products** – Look for UL (Underwriters Laboratories) or similar certification
- ⚡ **Use original chargers** – If replacing, ensure voltage/amperage compatibility
- ⌚ **Unplug when fully charged** – Prevent overcharging
- **Never leave charging devices unattended**
- 🪑 **Charge on hard, flat surfaces** – Keep away from flammable materials
- 🚪 **Don't block exits** – Never park/charge e-bikes or scooters near fire exits
- 🔥 **Mind the temperature** – Avoid charging below 32°F (0°C) or above 105°F (40°C)
- 📄 **Check for recalls** – [Visit cpsc.gov/Recalls](https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls)

Proper Disposal Guidelines

- **Tape the terminals** – Use clear packing tape to cover exposed terminals
- 🗑️ **Do NOT discard in trash** – Batteries contain hazardous materials and must be recycled
- 📅 **1-year storage limit** – California law requires used batteries to be recycled within one year

In Case of Fire

🔥 If a battery catches fire:

1. Move combustible materials away
2. Evacuate immediately
3. Call **911**