

LITHIUM-ION BATTERY

SAFETY CHECKLIST

Fire Prevention Week 2026 • Free Fire Safety Handbook resource

Review the way lithium-ion battery devices are charged, stored and handled.

Lithium-ion batteries power phones, tablets, laptops, tools, e-bikes, scooters and many other devices. Safe equipment, safe charging locations and early recognition of warning signs can reduce fire risk.

BEFORE YOU PLUG IN

- ☐ Use the charger and cord supplied with the device, or one approved by the manufacturer.
- ☐ Check the battery, charger and cord for swelling, cracks, exposed wiring, heat damage or other visible damage.
- ☐ Choose products that carry a recognized safety certification mark, such as CSA, UL or ETL.

CHARGE SAFELY

- ☐ Charge on a hard, flat surface where heat can dissipate. Avoid beds, couches, pillows and other soft surfaces.
- ☐ Keep charging devices away from combustible materials and do not cover the device or charger while charging.
- ☐ Unplug the device when it is fully charged.
- ☐ For larger items such as e-bikes, e-scooters and power tools, charge outside when possible and never block an exit.

KNOW THE WARNING SIGNS

- ☐ Stop using the device if it becomes unusually hot, swells, leaks, smells strange, changes shape, smokes, or makes popping or hissing sounds.
- ☐ If a battery is actively smoking, burning, or creating an immediate hazard, leave the area and call emergency services from a safe location.

STORAGE & DISPOSAL

- ☐ Protect batteries and devices from physical damage and excessive heat, and follow the manufacturer's storage instructions.
- ☐ Do not place lithium-ion batteries in household garbage or regular recycling. Use an approved battery recycling or drop-off program.

MANAGERS & BUILDING STAFF

Keep charging equipment out of required exits and exit access. Establish approved charging locations for larger battery-powered equipment, remove damaged devices from service, and follow manufacturer instructions and applicable local requirements.