

## RECHARGEABLE BATTERY SAFETY GUIDELINES

Rechargeable batteries provide power to many kinds of devices including portable power tools, phones, laptops, Micromobility Devices, and emergency lighting. In rare cases, they can cause a fire or explosion. The following safety guidelines apply to rechargeable batteries.

### Purchasing

- Purchase batteries and battery-powered equipment from reputable suppliers and, when available, purchase batteries approved by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL) such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).

### Usage

- Never attempt to modify batteries without justification, a job hazard assessment, and approval from EHS.
- Do NOT use batteries that are damaged or bulging.
- Never mix battery types or use new batteries with old ones.
- Avoid using or installing conductive materials near battery terminals. Remove jewelry and use non-conductive or insulated tools when working on or near the terminals.
- Immediately disconnect batteries during operation or during charging if they emit an unusual smell, develop heat or are bulging. If the battery starts to smoke or catches fire, call 911 and activate the fire alarm pull station in the building you are in, if available.

### Charging and Storage

- Follow the manufacturer instructions and only use approved charging methods and equipment (preferably automatic chargers that prevent overcharging). Charging voltage and amps are specific to each battery.
- Do not use, store, park or charge Batter-Powered Micromobility Devices within University buildings, in accordance with [Policy 4501](#).
- Place batteries on non-conductive and non-combustible surfaces.
- Store batteries in a cool, dry, and well-ventilated room away from flammable and combustible materials.
- Never discard rechargeable batteries, including lead acid, lithium-ion, and button batteries into the general trash. Visit “[Management of Unwanted Batteries](#)” for more information.

### Resources

- Power Tool Rechargeable Battery Safety: <https://ehs.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/power-tool-rechargeable-batteries.pdf>
- Management of Unwanted Batteries: <https://ehs.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/unwanted-batteries.pdf>
- Emergency Procedures: <https://ehs.yale.edu/emergency-procedures>
- Find Your Safety Advisor: <https://ehs.yale.edu/safety-advisor>
- Electrical Safety: <https://ehs.yale.edu/electrical-safety>
- Micromobility Device Policy: <https://your.yale.edu/policies-procedures/4501-micromobility-device-policy>