

RECHARGEABLE BATTERY SAFETY GUIDELINES

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

Purchasing

- Purchase batteries from reputable suppliers and only purchase batteries approved by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL) such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).
- Select “personal e-mobility devices”, such as scooters and hoverboards, meeting and marked as meeting UL 2272 requirements (<https://bit.ly/3ReIMwU>).

Usage

- Never attempt to modify batteries.
- 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.
- Park and charge “personal e-mobility devices”, such as scooters, in appropriate locations. Do NOT block doors and egress paths.
- 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 “[Recycling Electronics & Other Materials](#)” for more information.

Resources

- Emergency Procedures: <https://ehs.yale.edu/emergency-procedures>
- Recycling Electronics & Other Materials: <https://recycling.yale.edu/recycling-campus/electronics-other-materials>
- Find Your Safety Advisor: <https://ehs.yale.edu/safety-advisor>
- Hoverboard Safety: <https://bit.ly/3pSUy4A>
- Electrical Safety: <https://ehs.yale.edu/electrical-safety>