FIRE SAFETY BULLETIN

Lithium-Ion Batteries



Department of Environmental Health and Safety — Office of Fire Safety

Lithium-ion batteries are currently one of the leading causes of fires in New York City. They store a large amount of energy in a compact space. If overcharged or damaged, they can overheat, catch fire, or even explode. By learning how to safely buy, charge, and recycle these batteries, you can help prevent fires in your home.

Buy

Purchase only certified products. When buying items that use lithium-ion batteries, look for a safety certification mark such as UL, ETL, or CSA—these indicate the product meets essential safety standards.

Charge

Charge devices safely. Always use the charging cables provided with the product and follow the manufacturer's instructions. If you need a replacement charger, purchase one from the manufacturer or an approved source. Charge devices on a hard, flat surface, and avoid overcharging. Unplug the device or remove the battery once it is fully charged.

Stop

Stop using your device immediately if the battery emits an unusual smell, becomes excessively hot, makes popping noises, or shows changes in shape or color. If it is safe to do so, move the device away from anything flammable. Call 911 right away.

Recycle

Recycle batteries responsibly. Never dispose of lithium-ion batteries in the trash or regular recycling bins, as they can pose a fire hazard. Instead, take your device or battery to a certified battery recycling location. To find a drop-off site near you, visit **call2recycle.org**



Note: *The storage or charging of e-bikes, e-scooters, e-skateboards, and hoverboards is strictly prohibited in all St. John's campus buildings. For more information, please reference St. John's University Policy 1037 regarding Motorized, E-Mobility, and Manual Devices and Equipment on University Campuses.*

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