



Lithium Battery Fire Safety: Keep Charging Away From Your Escape Route

Description

Charge on a hard, flat surface away from combustibles and the exit, using the maker-recommended adaptor with a SAFETY Mark. Do not charge immediately after use, for prolonged periods or unattended overnight, and stop using a battery that is bloated, corroded, leaking or leaving powdery residue. [SCDF fire safety and emergency advisories](#). [SCDF emergency handbook](#). [NEA e-waste system](#).

Choose the branch that matches your case

Situation	Next step
Battery is normal and cool	Charge in an open supervised setup
Battery is hot after use	Let it cool before charging
Battery is swollen, corroded or damaged	Stop use and contact the maker or proper recycler
Device catches fire	Alert others, evacuate, close the door and call 995

Protect the way out first

SCDF says active-mobility devices should not be charged near an entrance, exit or escape path. A fire that starts at the door can remove the household’s safest route. [SCDF fire safety and emergency advisories](#).

Choose a hard, open, flat surface away from curtains, cardboard, furniture and other combustibles. Common corridors are not charging areas.

Use the right device and parts

Purchase from original manufacturers or official retailers. PMDs should carry the required UL2272 certification, and power-assisted bicycles should meet EN15194 and display LTA’s orange seal.

[SCDF emergency handbook.](#)

Do not use non-original batteries or improvised adaptors. A connector that fits is not proof of electrical compatibility.

Change the charging routine

Do not charge immediately after use, when the battery may already be warm. Do not leave it charging overnight or unattended for a prolonged period. [NEA e-waste system.](#)

Set charging hours when an adult is awake and nearby. Disconnect according to the manufacturer's instructions rather than relying on an extension timer alone.

Inspect before connecting power

Look for bloating, corrosion, cracks, leakage, powdery residue, damaged cables, unusual smell or persistent heat. Check devices that have sat unused for a long period.

A damaged battery should not be opened, compressed or tested. Contact the original supplier for safe handling and replacement instructions.

Do not repair or modify it yourself

SCDF advises against tampering, adding battery packs, installing unapproved electrical accessories or attempting home repair. Modification can bypass protection systems.

Return faults to the maker or official retailer. Keep a record of the battery model and purchase source.

Know the fire response

SCDF says a lithium-ion active-mobility fire can spread rapidly, explode and release toxic gases. Alert people, leave immediately, close the door if safe and call 995. Do not try to fight the fire.

If escape is blocked, move to the furthest room, close and seal the door gap with a wet towel or rug, call 995 and signal for help. Do not jump.

Use the e-waste route

NEA says batteries must not go into general or blue recycling bins. Tape terminals or wires of rechargeable batteries to reduce short-circuit risk, and seal leaking batteries in a leak-proof bag or container.

Use an appropriate e-waste collection point or maker route. Bulky or damaged items should not be abandoned beside a bin.

Build a dated decision record

Write down the exact outcome you need: change the charging setup before heat, damage or smoke turns it into an escape problem. Keep the household, company, product, trip or booking facts that produced the result beside it. A result based on different facts is not a precedent, even when the headline issue looks similar.

Record the date and the controlling page you checked. For this decision, the source set is SCDF fire safety and emergency advisories; SCDF emergency handbook; NEA e-waste system. Save the relevant reference number, model, class, property detail, deadline, service route or ticket choice. That makes it possible to reconstruct the decision if a rule, inventory position or personal fact changes.

Use two working aids instead of a single yes-or-no note. First, make a room-by-room charging-location risk check. Second, add a damage-to-action and evacuation decision tree. The first shows how the facts map to the official rule or live service; the second exposes the timing, cost, trade-off or follow-up action that a simple eligibility answer can hide.

Set a stop condition before acting. Pause if you encounter charging in the corridor, using a cheaper non-original battery, leaving charging overnight, or if any fact no longer matches the source you checked. Re-run the relevant official tool or contact the competent organisation. The purpose of the record is not paperwork for its own sake. It prevents an old screenshot, rough estimate or remembered rule from becoming an expensive assumption.

Work the example before the real decision

A household currently charges an e-bike beside the main door overnight. It moves the charging point to a hard surface away from the exit and combustibles, limits charging to supervised daytime hours, checks the original adaptor and adds a monthly battery inspection. The change protects both ignition risk and escape.

Reader checklist

1. Move charging away from exits
2. Use original batteries and the recommended adaptor
3. Let the device cool after use
4. Supervise charging
5. Inspect for deformation or residue
6. Teach the 995 evacuation plan
7. Use the proper e-waste route

Mistakes to avoid

- Charging in the corridor
- Using a cheaper non-original battery
- Leaving charging overnight

- Repairing a pack at home
- Putting batteries in a blue bin

Related next reads

After change the charging setup before heat, damage or smoke turns it into an escape problem, [check a suspicious message](#). You can also [plan another safety deadline](#).

Questions readers ask

Should a PMD charge near the door?

No. SCDF says to keep charging away from escape paths.

What are visible warning signs?

Bloating, corrosion, leakage, powdery residue and other damage.

What should you do if it catches fire?

Alert others, evacuate, close the door if safe and call 995.

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