

RECHARGEABLE BATTERY-POWERED DEVICES

The lithium-ion batteries in many rechargeable battery-powered devices can overheat and cause fires. Take precautions when buying, charging, parking, storing, and disposing of lithium-ion batteries for personal use.

LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES

Lithium-ion batteries are a rechargeable power source for many products including e-bikes, e-scooters, hoverboards, smart phones, laptops, and power tools.



RISK OF OVERHEATING

Lithium-ion batteries can rapidly overheat and cause large, explosive fires. Damaged, defective, or uncertified batteries have a greater risk of causing fires or explosions.

WARNING SIGNS

Battery is hot, swelling/bulging, smoking, making sounds, or smells bad

if you notice any **warning signs**:

1. Unplug it.
2. Move it away from anything flammable.
3. Safely dispose of it (refer to page 2).

If your device or battery catches fire, leave the area immediately and call 9-1-1.

BUYING

- Check if a product has been [recalled](#) before buying it.
- Purchase batteries and devices from reputable manufacturers or suppliers.
- Inspect batteries upon receipt for damage.

CHARGING

- Follow manufacturers' instructions for charging, storage, and use.
- Only use the charger that came with your device. If you need to buy a new charger, make sure the replacement is approved by the device manufacturer.
- Always plug directly into a wall electrical outlet. Never use an extension cord.
- Do not charge devices at temperatures below 32°F (0°C) or above 105°F.
- Pick a safe place to charge your device. Avoid charging your device near a door or window that could be used as an emergency exit.
- Inspect for damage regularly.

PARKING AND STORAGE

- Keep your devices and batteries stored in a cool, dry place.
- Do not store or use devices or batteries in direct sunlight.
- Pick a safe place to park e-bikes, e-scooters, and other electronically-assisted micromobility devices. Park only in [designated areas](#) when at a UW location.

Parking in a UW building or residence hall is prohibited by the [Washington Administrative Code](#) (except in designated locations) due to the risk of fire.



DISPOSAL

	Personal property	UW property
Batteries	<p>Visit Call2Recycle.org to find a drop-off location.</p> <p><i>Batteries contain chemicals that can harm the environment. Do not put batteries in the trash.</i></p>	<p>Dispose of used batteries by taking them to an eMedia Recycling bin (if less than five pounds).</p> <p>Request a Chemical Waste Collection for 5 or more pounds of batteries, and for large or leaking batteries.</p> <p><i>Batteries contain chemicals that can harm the environment. Do not put batteries in the trash.</i></p>
Electronic devices	<p>Visit the E-Cycle Washington website for a list of locations that accept e-devices such as laptops, tablets, e-readers and cellphones.</p>	<p>Send electronics and other devices to UW Surplus when they are no longer needed.</p>

INFORMATION FOR UW WORK SPACES

UW personnel follow the [Lithium Battery Safety](#) guidance to help prevent fire, injury, and loss of intellectual and other property when procuring, storing, charging, handling, and disposing lithium-ion batteries used for work-related tasks.

**Please contact Environmental Health & Safety
at 206.543.7262 or ehsdept@uw.edu for more information.**