

# 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 <a href="https://www.call2recycle.org">Call2Recycle.org</a> 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 <a href="#">eMedia Recycling bin</a> (if less than five pounds).</p> <p>Request a <a href="#">Chemical Waste Collection</a> 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 <a href="#">E-Cycle Washington website</a> 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 <a href="#">UW Surplus</a> 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](mailto:ehsdept@uw.edu) for more information.**