

# Dryer Safety

## Prevent Dryer Fires

Maintain your dryer for safety's sake



### Guidelines for Dryer Safety

Fires involving clothes dryers usually are started with the ignition of something that was being dried or a by-product of drying (i.e. lint). The leading factor is the failure to clean dryer vents, ducts, and filters. Consider the following preventative guidelines:

- Follow manufacturer's operating instructions.
- Have dryers professionally installed and serviced.
- Make sure your dryer is properly grounded.
- Ensure machine is properly connected using the proper plug and outlet.
- Use rigid or flexible metal venting material to sustain proper air flow and drying time.
- Always clean the lint filter before and after each load of laundry.
- Never overload the dryer.
- Remove lint that has collected around the drum.
- Turn dryer off before you leave home or go to bed.
- Clean vent pipe at least once a year or if you notice drying time is taking longer than normal.
- Make sure air exhaust vent pipe is not restricted and outdoor vent flap opens when dryer is operating.



Clogged dryer vents, ducts, and filters are the main causes of dryers catching on fire.

Clothing is the second main cause of dryers catching on fire.

Other causes are appliance casing, unclassified soft goods, electrical wire or cable insulation, and linen.

### Additional Safety Tips:

- Clothes drying time should NOT exceed 60 minutes.
- Prior to washing, air dry any material that has come in contact with flammable substances.

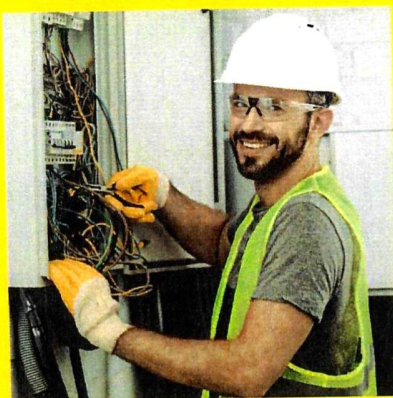




# Indoor Electrical Safety



- ✓ Only use extension cords temporarily.
- ✓ Always plug an appliance directly into a wall outlet.
- ✓ Replace damaged or cracked electrical cords.
- ✓ Use light bulbs that match the recommended wattage.
- ✓ Install faceplates on receptacle outlets and switches.
- ✗ Avoid placing cords across doorways or under carpet.
- ✗ Never overload wall outlets, extension cords, or power strips.
- ✗ Never plug an extension cord into another extension cord.



**ELECTRICAL WORK SHOULD ONLY BE PERFORMED BY A LICENSED ELECTRICIAN.**





# Lithium-Ion Battery Safety



Lithium-ion batteries supply power to many kinds of devices including smart phones, laptops, e-scooters and e-bikes, e-cigarettes, smoke alarms, toys, and even cars. If not used correctly, or if damaged, these batteries can catch on fire or explode.

## The problem

- These batteries store a large amount of energy in a small amount of space.
- Sometimes batteries are not used the right way; batteries not designed for a specific use can be dangerous.
- Like any product, a small number of these batteries are defective. They can overheat, catch fire, or explode.

## Safety Tips

- Purchase and use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Only use the battery that is designed for the device.
- Put batteries in the device the right way.
- Only use the charging cord that came with the device.
- Do not charge a device under your pillow, on your bed, or on a couch.
- Do not keep charging the device or device battery after it is fully charged.
- Keep batteries at room temperature when possible. Do not charge them at temperatures below 32°F (0°C) or above 105°F (40°C).
- Store batteries away from anything that can catch fire.

## Signs of a Problem

Stop using the battery if you notice these problems: odor, change in color, too much heat, change in shape, leaking, or odd noises. If it is safe to do so, move the device away from anything that can catch fire. Call **9-1-1**.

## Battery Disposal

- Do not put lithium-ion batteries in the trash.
- Recycling is always the best option.
- Take them to a battery recycling location or contact your community for disposal instructions.
- Do not put discarded batteries in piles.

## Charging an E-bike

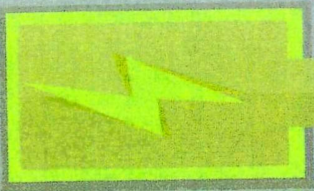
Charge your battery in a flat, dry area away from children, direct sunlight, liquids, tripping hazards, and in a location where the e-bike is not at risk of falling.



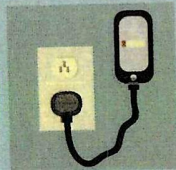
**NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**  
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

**FIRE SAFE**  
**South Carolina**  
A COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION PROGRAM





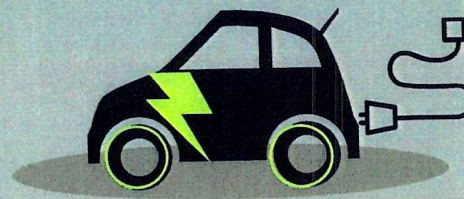
# Lithium-Ion Batteries: Dangers and Fire Prevention



**PLUG INTO SAFETY.**

Lithium-ion batteries are rechargeable. They are used in many personal electronics such as **laptops, tablets, cell phones, electric toothbrushes, tools, hoverboards, scooters, vaping devices** and for **solar power backup storage**.

These batteries have become a convenient size source of energy. While rare, these batteries can cause a fire or explode.



## Hazards

- Chemicals (carbon monoxide, hydrogen, carbon dioxide) can leak from damage.
- Explosion dangers, with rapid-fire growth.
- Pocket-sized items (e-cigs) can catch fire inside the pocket, burning the owner.

## Causes of Damage

- Overcharging the battery
- Physical damage (dents, punctures)
- Temperatures above 130°F and below 32°F

**\*\* Remove lithium-powered devices and batteries from the charger once they are fully charged. \*\***

## Prevention

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for using, charging, storing, maintaining, and disposing.
- Only buy batteries from a reputable manufacturer and only use a manufacturer-approved charger.
- Inspect batteries when first installed and after use. If you notice damage, do not recharge it.
- Do not overcharge batteries. Do not charge them on furniture, your bed, or under a pillow.
- When storing an item with a lithium-ion battery, remove the battery from the item (if possible). Store in a cool, dry location.
- Do not dispose of these batteries in household garbage or recycling bins.

## Warning Signs of a Potential Lithium-Ion Battery Fire

### NOISE

Failing batteries have been reported to make hissing, cracking, or popping sounds.

### ODOR

If you notice a strong or unusual odor coming from the battery, this is a bad sign. These batteries emit toxic fumes when they fail.

### SMOKE

If your device is smoking, a fire may have already started.

**RECYCLING  
BATTERIES  
EPA**



**FIRE SAFE**  
**South Carolina**

A COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION PROGRAM

