

The Sydney Library of Things

Lithium Battery Factsheet

Key guidelines for library members

- Do not leave the item to charge unattended
- Do not charge for extended periods or continue after reaching full charge
- Use only the accessories provided with the toy, do not use your own accessories even if they may look the same.

All batteries can be hazardous and can pose a safety risk. However, lithium-ion batteries are considered more volatile than traditional batteries due to their chemical makeup. There are certain factors that can increase the risk of a lithium-ion battery setting fire or exploding including improper handling and storage.

A lithium-ion battery is more likely to set on fire or explode if you:

- overcharge the battery
- expose the battery to elevated temperatures
- expose the battery to moisture
- store batteries close to each other

Keeping safe around Lithium batteries

DO

- Purchase products containing lithium-ion batteries from a reputable supplier
- Store lithium-ion batteries within the recommended temperature range recommended by the manufacturer
- Charge lithium-ion batteries on a non-flammable surface such as concrete, ceramic, and steel, away from flammable material
- Allow the lithium-ion battery to cool after use before charging
- Turn chargers off once the lithium-ion battery is fully charged

DON'T

- Use a product containing lithium-ion batteries if it appears damaged
- Use lithium-ion batteries that are swollen, punctured, very hot to touch, leaking or emitting smoke or odour
- Expose batteries to excessive heat, or moisture, or charge near flammable materials like mattresses, wood, paper and plastic
- Leave lithium-ion batteries in vehicles or warm places for extended periods
- Drop, throw or puncture the battery

Source: Product Safety Australia

<https://www.productsafety.gov.au/products/electronics-technology/lithium-ion-batteries>