

Lithium Battery Safety Awareness

The average modern UK household has many items containing lithium-ion batteries. These are batteries that can be recharged and range from mobile phones, e-bikes and scooters, vacuum cleaners, even tablets, iPads and ear pods.

What is a lithium-ion battery?

These are the lightweight, rechargeable batteries that can be found in household electrical items we use every day. The device you're viewing this website on is most likely powered by a lithium-ion battery.

Lithium-ion batteries are fast to charge, last a long time and contain a lot of power for their size. These batteries can be extremely dangerous, if not handled and cared for properly. They are extremely sensitive to high temperatures and are flammable. These batteries can cause fires that quickly spread and are difficult to extinguish, causing widespread damage.

Safety tips

Lithium-ion batteries are used safely by millions of people every day. However, there are some things you need to know when it comes to fire safety. These simple measures can keep you and your family safer and reduce the risk of fire:

- **Always read the manufacturers safety instructions.**
- **Let your lithium battery powered item run flat on a regular basis and recharge from flat to maintain battery health.**
- **Always use the charger that came with your device.**
- **If you need to replace your charger, always choose the correct branded product from a trusted supplier.**
- **Avoid buying cheap chargers online, there are a lot of fakes on the market, and it can be difficult to spot the difference, (buying cheap chargers is never cost effective in the long run!).**
- **Charge the device on a flat, solid and stable surface, such as a table or worktop.**
- **Do not overload power sockets.**
- **Do not charge batteries that are damaged, dented, crushed or punctured, and Never charge if the battery had been dropped in water.**

- **Don't leave items continuously on charge e.g., don't leave your phone plugged in overnight, (or under a pillow / on the bed charging), or when you are away from home.**
- **Don't charge anything in a corridor or room that provides the only means of escape.**
- **Make sure there are working smoke alarms in your home and in any room where charging takes place.**
- **Only charge in a room where you can close the door to prevent smoke spread.**
- **In the event of a fire, get out, stay out, call 999**

Don't bin your batteries...

- **Never put batteries in your general rubbish bin or with other recyclable materials like card, metals and plastics.**
- **Follow recycling instructions from your local authority and always keep electrical items separate from other household waste.**
- **Removable batteries should be recycled separately from the device and should be disposed of at a battery recycling point or using your local collection service (if one is available).**
- **Non-removable batteries should be recycled with the device using a waste electricals recycling service.**
- **If in doubt, take unwanted electrical items or lithium-ion batteries to your local household waste recycling centre.**

To find your local household waste recycling centre, follow the link below:

[Household waste recycling centres | North Yorkshire Council](#)

Great & Little Barugh Parish Council