

E-BIKE BATTERY SAFETY



E-bikes are powered by lithium-ion batteries similar to the ones in your cellphone and laptop computer, only larger. If used or stored incorrectly, or used when damaged, lithium-ion batteries can present fire hazards. When basic safety guidelines are followed, however, lithium-ion batteries are safe. Here are some best practices you can follow to protect yourself and others.

KNOW BEFORE YOU BUY

- **NOTE:** All e-bikes purchased through the Boston E-Bikes Incentive Program must be UL certified.
- If you are purchasing a backup or replacement battery for your bike, avoid off-brand batteries. Purchase from your original e-bike manufacturer if possible, and only use batteries that have the same specifications as the original.

SAFE CHARGING BASICS

- Always use the original charger that came with your e-bike. If you need a backup or replacement charger, purchase one with the appropriate specifications from the manufacturer.
- Never leave your battery unattended while charging.
- Unless otherwise specified by your bike's manufacturer, plug the charger into the wall first, then into the battery.

- It is best to charge your e-bike battery indoors. Do not charge with the battery or charger in direct sunlight or extreme temperatures (hot or cold).
- Do not leave your battery plugged in at all times. Be sure to unplug your battery once charged.
- Plug your e-bike charger directly into the wall. Do not use extension cords or power strips.
- If your battery is damaged, do not charge it or use it.



PROPER BATTERY CARE

Good battery care and storage habits will help extend your battery's lifespan.

- If your battery is external, remove it from the bike before transporting the bike to avoid damage.
- Always follow your e-bike manufacturer's charging and storage guidelines.
- Do not modify your e-bike battery in any way.
- Avoid charging or storing your battery in extreme temperatures (hot or cold).
- For long term storage keep your battery between 30–70% of its charge. Do not store your battery when it is fully depleted.
- If your battery is damaged, bulging, or overheating, do not use or store it.

SAFE RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL

- Participating bike shops in the Boston E-Bikes Incentive Program must recycle any battery sold through the program.
- To dispose of a damaged e-bike battery, call your local fire department and ask for assistance.
- To dispose of an e-bike battery at the end of its life, you will need to make sure to properly recycle it.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Call2Recycle also offers free battery recycling for participating brands. You can search for drop off locations and learn more here:

<https://www.hungryforbatteries.org/>

<https://www.boston.gov/boston-bikes>

