

E-bike and E-scooter safety

As e-bikes and e-scooters become increasingly popular, it's important to understand the steps you can take to reduce their fire risk by storing and charging them correctly.

What are the risks?

With the popularity of e-bikes and e-scooters continuing to rise, it is important to know how to charge and store them safely. Most e-bikes and e-scooters use lithium-ion batteries which can be easily charged at home. Whilst this is convenient, it can create a fire risk if not done safely. Fires could occur from poorly designed batteries, from charging them incorrectly or from damage to the battery. If the battery is ignited, it could lead to a fire. London Fire Brigade reported eight fires caused by e-bikes and e-scooters in 2019, 24 in 2020 and 59 by December 2021.



How to reduce fire risk:

- ▶ Don't store or charge e-bike and e-scooters in communal areas as this can block emergency exit routes and create a fire risk.
- ▶ Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- ▶ Unplug your charger when it has finished charging and don't overcharge.
- ▶ Choose to charge batteries in an area with a smoke alarm.
- ▶ Don't charge batteries overnight while you are asleep or away from home.
- ▶ Always use the approved manufacturers charger.
- ▶ Don't cover chargers or battery packs when charging as this could lead to overheating.
- ▶ Don't charge batteries in areas of high temperature and sunlight.
- ▶ Don't charge batteries or store your e-bike/e-scooter near combustible or flammable materials.
- ▶ Don't overload socket outlets or use inappropriate extension leads.
- ▶ Be wary of 'DIY kits' to convert a standard bike into an e-bike.

If you suspect that you have a faulty e-bike, stop using it immediately and report the fault to the manufacturer or retailer. You can also contact the Electrical Safety First Charity's Citizens Advice helpline on 03454 04 05 06.

Find out more at www.hastoe.com/e-bikes.