

# BATTERY BEWARE

## TAKE CHARGE. STAY SAFE.

### DON'T Recycle or Trash Lithium Batteries at Home

Lithium batteries are extremely popular because they are reliable and long-lasting. These types of batteries are found in a wide range of devices, including cell phones, power tools, laptops, tablets, children's toys, scooters, electric toothbrushes and more.



#### PREVENT FIRES

Lithium and lithium-ion batteries, which are made from highly flammable materials, can pose a serious fire risk.<sup>1</sup> If overheated, punctured or faulty, these batteries can cause fires or explode.



#### PROTECT PEOPLE

Lithium battery fires are incredibly difficult to extinguish and may reignite days later. When batteries fail, they can release toxic gases that endanger individuals in their homes and workplaces.



#### WHERE TO RECYCLE

Recycle lithium batteries for **FREE** at retail drop-off locations like Best Buy, The Home Depot, Staples, Ace Hardware and Lowes. You can also use a mail-back program or take them to a certified electronics recycler.



#### PRESERVE THE ENVIRONMENT

Improper disposal of lithium batteries can have dire consequences for the environment. The materials within these batteries can harm ecosystems and contaminate water supplies, causing long-lasting damage.



#### CONSERVE PRECIOUS RESOURCES

By recycling lithium batteries correctly, you can help preserve the valuable resources contained within them, such as nickel, cobalt, graphite, lithium and manganese.<sup>2,3</sup>

### DO'S & DON'TS

- DON'T** Overcharge lithium batteries or leave them plugged in overnight.
- DON'T** Throw away lithium batteries in the garbage.
- DON'T** Try to recycle lithium batteries at home.
- DO** Store batteries between 40° and 80°F.
- DO** Cover battery terminals with electrical tape and/or place them in separate plastic bags when disposing.
- DO** Dispose of lithium-ion batteries at designated recycling or household hazardous waste collection points.



#### LEARN MORE AT:

[RepublicServices.com/LithiumBatteries](https://RepublicServices.com/LithiumBatteries)



Sustainability in Action

1. [https://ehs.oregonstate.edu/sites/ehs.oregonstate.edu/files/pdf/si/lithium\\_fire\\_prevention\\_si093.pdf](https://ehs.oregonstate.edu/sites/ehs.oregonstate.edu/files/pdf/si/lithium_fire_prevention_si093.pdf)  
2. <https://cleantechnica.com/2023/03/03/are-lithium-ion-batteries-recyclable-yes-or-no/>  
3. <https://greenly.earth/en-us/blog/ecology-news/the-harmful-effects-of-our-lithium-batteries>