



BATTERY BASICS

Sparky's Top Safety Tips

Rechargeable devices, like tablets, laptops, game controllers, smartwatches, or cell phones, contain lithium-ion batteries. Rechargeable lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries heat up quickly to power devices fast. If improperly charged, stored, used, thrown away or recycled, these batteries can catch fire or explode.

*Rechargeable batteries can **CATCH FIRE!***

- 1 Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.** Different devices may have different requirements.
- 2 Never charge a device on a soft surface** (e.g., under your pillow, on your bed, on a couch).
- 3 Don't overcharge devices or leave them charging overnight.** Unplug them once they are fully charged.
- 4 Don't use damaged batteries** (e.g., swollen, leaking, dented, other types of damage).
- 5 Do not place rechargeable batteries in your household garbage or recycling.** Turn in batteries at a drop-off location.



Visit des.sc.gov/bebatterysmart for more information about battery safety and recycling.

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