

**karbon**  
homes

# Charge Safe

Here's how to stay safe.

## **As e-bikes, e-scooters and even e-skateboards grow in popularity, so do the risks of fire caused by their lithium batteries. If they become damaged or begin to fail, they can explode and catch fire.**

We've produced this leaflet to highlight the risks and how to avoid them. Here's how to stay safe...

### **Buy from a reputable retailer**

Many fires involve items, chargers and batteries which do not meet British or European standards or are counterfeit electrical goods. So, always buy from a reputable retailer to make sure what you are buying is as safe as possible. Make sure you register your product with the manufacturer to validate any warranties – this will usually include the battery too. This will make it easier for manufacturers to contact you in the event of safety or recall information.

### **Don't block your exit**

Don't charge or store your e-bike or e-scooter near the exit and where possible, store them outside of your home in a secure shed or a garage. If you live in one of our blocks, your e-bike or e-scooter must never be charged or stored in the communal areas or in a place that blocks a fire escape route. If you have to store them in your flat, do this away from the exit or your means of escape and avoid anywhere that can get excessively hot.

### **Watch for warning signs**

A failing battery can be a fire risk. Keep an eye out for warning signs, such as overheating or swelling batteries and replace them if necessary. If you notice any unusual odours, smoke or hissing sounds, unplug the charger immediately and carefully move the battery to an outside area. Remember: batteries can be damaged if dropped or if you crash, and a damaged battery is more likely to overheat and be at risk of catching fire.

### **Let your battery cool**

Lithium batteries can heat up when used. Let your battery cool down before charging it to avoid overheating. This will also help to extend the life of your battery.

### **Take care when charging**

Always charge your battery in a well-ventilated area, staying away from combustible or flammable materials. Don't cover chargers or battery packs when charging. If you spot any signs of wear and tear to your charger, do not use it any further and replace it. Don't overload sockets or use inappropriate extension leads. Use un-coiled extension leads and make sure the extension lead is suitably rated for what you are plugging into it.

## **Never leave batteries unattended**

It may be tempting to leave your battery charging overnight or when you are out, but this can be dangerous. Never leave your battery charging unattended or while you sleep, you need to be awake and alert so if a fire should occur you can respond quickly.

## **Unplug your charger**

Once your battery is fully charged, unplug your charger. Overcharging your battery can damage it and increase the risk of fire. Make sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions for charging and maintaining your battery.

## **Damaged or old batteries**

Do not dispose of batteries in your normal household waste or recycling, as this can cause a bin or rubbish fire if damaged during waste collection and processing. This includes any communal bins if you live in one of our blocks. Check with your local council about the best way to get rid of it safely.

## **What to do if there is a fire**

Do not attempt to extinguish the fire.

If you live in one of our blocks, please also follow the fire safety instructions and advice for your building.

**Call 999.**

## **Keeping you safe**

The fire alarms in your home play a vital role in giving you early warning in the event of a fire. So, it's important not to remove, tamper with, paint or cover them over.

If you are able to, you should test the smoke alarms in your home regularly. If you have any concerns or questions regarding the smoke alarms in your home, please contact us at **[buildingsafety@karbonhomes.co.uk](mailto:buildingsafety@karbonhomes.co.uk)**

For more information on charging lithium batteries safely, visit

**[www.london-fire.gov.uk/chargesafe](http://www.london-fire.gov.uk/chargesafe)**

This leaflet has been approved for publication and we've made a digital version available on our website. We've created a plain text version to support those using accessibility tools such as translation, audio, changes to the size of text, ruler and screen mask.

We also aim to make our information and services more accessible by using plain English in our communication and offering sign language and language interpreters where required.

If you would like this document in an alternative format or have any questions relating to this leaflet, please contact

**[inclusion@karbonhomes.co.uk](mailto:inclusion@karbonhomes.co.uk)**

**Contact us**

**Opening times:** Monday to Friday 8am-6pm

**Call us:** 0808 164 0111

**Email:** [info@karbonhomes.co.uk](mailto:info@karbonhomes.co.uk)

**Website:** [www.karbonhomes.co.uk](http://www.karbonhomes.co.uk)



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