



Charging Lithium Batteries

There have been several fires in Australia related to equipment containing lithium batteries. This equipment includes electric scooters, bikes, hover boards and similar. Follow these tips to help keep you and your family safe:

- Check that your electrical product has the regulatory compliance mark (RCM). This means it meets Australian safety standards. The RCM looks like this:



- Ensure your charger is registered on the [Electrical Equipment Safety System](#) (EESS) database.
- Only use a charger supplied by the manufacturer that is designed for that particular piece of equipment.
- If you need to purchase replacement chargers or batteries for the product, ask the manufacturer about the correct replacement that meets the original specifications and is compatible.
- Do not attempt to modify or repair batteries or chargers yourself.
- Before charging, check both the charger and battery enclosure for any signs of damage. If they are damaged, don't use them. Signs of damage include:
 - Cracked, broken or discoloured parts of the charger or battery enclosure
 - Water ingress
 - Bulging of the batteries or enclosure, and
 - Damaged charger cords (cuts, exposed internal wires, kinks, discolouration and melting).
- Only charge batteries where and when you are able to consistently monitor them and remain alert to signs of electrical failure.
- Ensure smoke alarms are regularly tested and working where charging occurs.
- Keep batteries and chargers out of the weather and away from combustible items when charging.
- Switch off the charger and remove the batteries when they are fully charged.

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