

Lithium Storage & Disposal Checklist

Keep cordless tool batteries safe in the shed, and get rid of old ones the right way in Australia.

Stop using and charging a battery straight away if it is swollen, cracked or leaking, gets unusually hot, smells sweet or chemical, hisses, pops or smokes, or has been dropped hard, crushed, punctured or got wet. If it's smoking or on fire, get everyone out and call 000.

Storing batteries

- ☐ Cool and dry, out of direct sun. Not in a hot car or ute.
- ☐ Away from anything flammable, and away from exits.
- ☐ Off the charger once full, unless the manufacturer says otherwise.
- ☐ Long storage: partly charged rather than full or flat (check your manual).
- ☐ Stored packs checked every few months so they don't drop too low.
- ☐ Loose batteries kept away from keys, coins and tools that could short the terminals.

Charging safely

- ☐ The manufacturer's charger for that battery.
- ☐ On a hard, non-flammable surface, not carpet, a bed or a couch.
- ☐ Not when the pack is very hot or very cold.
- ☐ Not overnight or while you're out.

Disposing of batteries

- ☐ Never in the household rubbish or recycling bin. They cause fires in bins, trucks and recycling centres.
- ☐ Terminals taped over with clear sticky tape.
- ☐ Taken to a battery drop-off point. B-cycle lists drop-off points, and many councils and some retailers accept them.
- ☐ Damaged or swollen batteries: ask your local council where to take them.

Move a warm or damaged battery outside, away from anything flammable, only if you can do it safely.