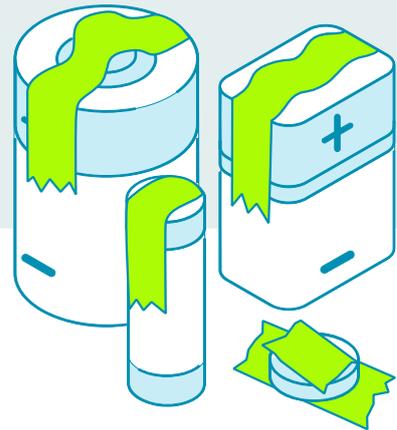


Fact Sheet

Battery Safety at Home



Part 1

Emergency Response



Poisons – Swallowing/ingesting batteries or chemicals from the battery (e.g., leaking acid).

All batteries are extremely hazardous, but button batteries are particularly risky due to their shape and size. If ingested, batteries can be a choking hazard and/or cause internal burns. Likewise, if inserted into the body, (e.g., into the nose or ears), batteries can get stuck, and cause internal burns. Internal burns are caused by a reaction between the electric current in the battery and the body's moisture - not by leaking battery acid. This reaction turns saliva and other bodily fluids into a caustic solution that can burn in as little as two hours, and potentially cause death.

Children are most at risk of putting batteries into their mouths. Hearing aid users and those with vision impairments also at risk, as they may mistake batteries for a hearing aid or medication. 'Flat' batteries can be just as hazardous as fully charged batteries, as they carry a residual charge.

If it is suspected that someone has swallowed or ingested a battery of any kind, follow these steps without delay:

- + Call 000 immediately.
- + Go straight to a hospital Emergency Department and NOT to a doctor. If possible, bring the device and/or battery packaging to assist in identifying the battery type.
- + **DO NOT** induce vomiting.
- + **DO NOT** give food or drink while awaiting medical treatment.

Batteries can be ingested without choking or coughing, and children or vulnerable people may not be able to communicate about their experience. Unless someone sees them swallow a battery, parents or carers may not realise what has happened. **Part 2 provides guidance on preventing battery burns and choking.**



Fire

Batteries present a low but real risk of catching fire if they are damaged or if their terminals short-circuit. Short-circuiting can happen if terminals touch other terminals, or if they touch metal objects like keys. Lithium ion (rechargeable) batteries have a higher risk of fire due to their volatile nature. Fires can occur anywhere that batteries are stored together. This includes collection containers, garbage trucks, processing facilities, and landfill.

- + In the event of a battery fire, call 000 immediately, and follow your home fire plan.
- + Completely wrap in a fire blanket if available, or, if safe to do so, submerge the burning battery in a bucket of clean water. **Part 2 provides guidance on preventing battery fires.**

Part 2

Safety Checklist for Preventing Incidents

Purchasing Batteries

- + Avoid low quality batteries and products as they may pose safety risks.
- + Only purchase the required number of batteries.
- + Purchase batteries in tamper-proof packaging.
- + Only purchase new devices that have sealed battery compartments / are tamper-proof.
- + Review battery manufacturer safety data sheets for further product guidance.

Using Batteries

- + Always treat batteries with care – they are hazardous products.
- + Always follow instructions on battery and device packaging.
- + Secure battery compartments on devices with duct tape.
- + Regularly check battery-powered devices to ensure battery compartments are secure.
- + Supervise children and vulnerable people who are using battery-operated devices.
- + Secure battery-operated devices out of reach of children and vulnerable people when not in use.

Storing Spare and Used Batteries

- + Using Batteries
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- + Secure battery-operated devices out of reach of children and vulnerable people when not in use.

Transporting Used Batteries to a B-cycle Drop off Point

- + Find your nearest accredited B-cycle Drop off point at [Bcycle.com.au](https://www.bcycle.com.au).
- + Seal the collection box with tape.
- + Transport the container directly to a B-cycle Drop off point, ensuring it is not left unattended in a vehicle at any time.

Disposing of Used Batteries

- + Never place batteries into recycling or garbage bins, as they can ignite, catch fire, and contaminate waste and recycling infrastructure.
- + Gently place batteries into B-cycle Drop off bins in plastic bags and/or taped. Never throw batteries into bins.
- + Never overfill a B-cycle Drop off bin.
- + Never place leaking or damaged batteries in a B-cycle Drop off bin without approval from the Drop off point.



**For all emergencies,
immediately call 000.**