



Managing the Risks of Lithium Batteries in Home Insurance





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As technology continues to evolve, the prevalence of lithium batteries in our daily lives has grown.

From smartphones to laptops, electric bicycles, and home appliances, these powerful energy sources have become essential. However, it's important for homeowners to understand the potential risks associated with lithium batteries, particularly concerning home insurance policies.

Lithium batteries are known for their high energy density and long-lasting power, making them popular for various devices. Despite their advantages, these batteries also carry risks, notably the potential for fire hazards when damaged, overcharged, or exposed to high temperatures. These risks are relevant for home insurance as they can lead to significant property damage and liability issues.

At AXA, our claims team have seen the devastation caused to our customers by fire damage from lithium batteries overheating or exploding. These claims have been in excess of half a million pounds. Aside from the financial impact, such incidents can cause a lot of upheaval for customers who can't always stay at home because of the severity of the damage. London Fire Brigade said there was a **78%* increase in e-bike fires** from 2022 to 2023, highlighting the severity of the issue.

In addition to fire hazards, improper disposal of lithium batteries can lead to environmental and health risks, resulting in chemical leaks and contamination. To mitigate these risks, homeowners with lithium battery-powered devices should take proactive measures. Here are some top tips to prevent issues from lithium batteries:



Proper Storage

Store lithium battery-powered devices and spare batteries in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight and heat sources.



Avoid Overcharging

Unplug chargers and remove batteries from charging stations once they are fully charged to prevent overcharging.



Regular Inspection

Routinely inspect lithium battery-powered devices for signs of damage, such as bulging, leaks, or unusual odours.



Safety first

Never block your escape route with anything, including e-bikes and e-scooters. Store them somewhere away from a main through route. Ideally, store these items in a safe external location, such as a garage or a shed.



Use Genuine Accessories

Use only manufacturer-approved chargers, cables, and accessories designed for specific lithium battery-powered devices.

[Find out how to dispose of lithium batteries safely.](#)



By following these preventive measures, homeowners can reduce the risk of fire caused by lithium batteries and promote a safer environment for themselves and their surroundings.