

Lithium Ion Battery – Fact Sheet

Lithium ion batteries are a wonderful source of power that people have come to expect and rely upon. The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide the reader with some quick, basic information about the battery and the potential hazard(s) that exist.

What are Lithium ion batteries? – Lithium ion batteries are rechargeable power packs, designed to be recharged hundreds of times. They differ from standard lithium batteries, which are not rechargeable. A typical lithium ion battery can store 150 watt-hours of electricity per kilogram and can store an electrical charge for a long period of time.

Where can Lithium ion batteries be found? – Lithium ion batteries are used to power items we use every day, such as cell phones, laptop computers, global positioning systems, portable power tools, cameras, motor vehicles, and items where the batteries are capable of being recharged.

Storage/Handling of Lithium ion batteries – The following are some basic tips regarding the storage and handling of lithium ion batteries. As a general rule, always follow the manufacturer's instructions and warnings.

- Avoid strong impacts to the battery (i.e. dropping, tossing)
- Do not expose to excessive heat (i.e. leaving items on dashboards, by heaters, in direct sunlight, or in motor vehicles during the summer)
- Charge batteries according to the manufacturer's instructions
- Do not tamper with the battery (i.e. puncture, or open)
- Do not expose to water or wet humid conditions
- Store unused batteries with electrical tape over the terminals and do not store new batteries with old batteries
- Avoid storing batteries in areas that contain loose metal objects (i.e. "junk drawers" containing paperclips or other metallic items)
- Use the charger and/or AC adaptor specific for that lithium ion battery

Disposal of Lithium ion batteries – Please do not dispose of lithium ion batteries in your trash containers. The plastics and metals in these batteries can be recycled. You will find locations to drop off your used lithium ion batteries at: www.call2recycle.org. Drop off locations for other types of batteries can be found at: 1800Recycling.com. Please adhere to storage and handling tips prior to recycling your batteries.

Lithium ion battery fire awareness – If improperly cared for, lithium ion batteries could be a fire hazard.

- A multi-cell battery that appears to be dead may still contain enough energy to start a fire because our devices measure the weakest cell. A single cell may be dead while the rest of the cells may be at full power.
- Multi-cell battery fires may be extinguished with any household fire extinguisher or water. However, it is very likely that the battery could reignite up to several hours later due to damage from the initial fire.
- Call the fire department anytime you experience a battery fire. Do not attempt to move any device or battery that has been involved in a fire.
- A continuous flow of water can prevent a secondary fire in a multi-cell battery fire, however, never use ice in an attempt to cool the battery pack. Ice can create a blanket effect that will lead to additional fires.