

**We recognise the growing popularity of people using e-bikes and e-scooters. There are however growing safety concerns around the storing and charging of e-bikes and e-scooters and an increasing number of reports of fires in domestic properties caused by these items.**

**PCHA has established a policy which aims to reduce the risks associated with this and to ensure residents and your visitors understand your responsibilities and obligations in relation to the ownership and/or use of e-bikes and e-scooters.**

## **Storage**

E-scooters and e-bikes must be stored on a flat, non-flammable surface near a smoke or heat alarm. They should be stored and charged in your home or a designated approved non-flammable storage space. They must not be stored in communal areas where they may be a trip or fire hazard. They must not be stored on balconies or in understairs cupboards or areas. Use of external trailing leads from windows, doors or other areas for charging purposes is not permitted. PCHA reserves the right to remove any e-bikes/scooters which are causing a hazard.

- E-bikes and e-scooters must be kept in a state of good repair and good working order.
- E-bikes and e-scooters, and their batteries should not be stored in an excessively hot or cold areas – they should be stored in a dry cool place.



- The manufacturer's instructions for the storage and maintenance of lithium-ion batteries must be followed, **using only designated chargers** for each appliance.
- PCHA will not provide storage or charging points for e-bikes or e-scooters.

## Charging E-Bikes and E-Scooters

These items are usually powered by lithium batteries. When used properly lithium batteries are not dangerous but it's important to be aware of the fire safety advice when charging batteries to both e-bikes and e-scooters.

Before a lithium-ion battery catches fire, there may be warning signs that it is about to fail. If any of the following signs are evident then you must act immediately and stop using the battery to stay safe and reduce the risk of fire.

**Overheating:** If the device's battery feels extremely hot to the touch

**Deformation:** If the battery looks swollen including any type of lump or leaking from the device.

**Noise:** If the battery is making hissing or cracking sounds.

**Smell:** If a strong or unusual smell is coming from the battery

**Performance:** If the battery doesn't fully charge or is taking longer to charge than normal

**Smoke:** If the battery or device is smoking

Batteries must be correctly disposed of and not in general or recycling waste to avoid the risk of waste fires. Check with your council for safe disposal options.

The following safety tips should be followed in respect of charging e-bikes and e-scooters:

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions when charging and always unplug your charger when finished.
- Never charge the appliance in an area required for exit from your home in the event of fire
- Ensure you have working smoke alarms.
- Don't leave batteries to charge while you are asleep or away from home.
- Always use the manufacturer approved charger. If you spot any signs of damage, buy an official replacement from a reputable seller.
- Don't cover chargers or battery packs when charging as this could lead to overheating or a fire.
- Don't charge batteries or store your e-bike or e-scooter near combustible or flammable materials.
- Don't overcharge your battery – check the manufacturer's instructions for charge times.
- Don't overload socket outlets or use inappropriate extension leads.

**In the event of an e-bike, e-scooter, or lithium-ion battery fire, don't attempt to extinguish the fire. Get out and call 999.**

## Responsible Use

We expect residents who own an e-bike or e-scooter to use them considerately and be mindful of other residents, members of staff, guests and members of the public. If a resident is seen to be using their e-bike or e-scooter irresponsibly or not adhering to PCHA's requirements, we reserve the right to seek removal of the e-bike or e-scooter.

See further information on the Gov.uk website: [e-bike rules](#) and [for e-scooters](#)

If you or a guest cause any damage to PCHA property when using an e-bike or e-scooter, you will be recharged for any costs in line with our Recharge Policy.

