



Safety tips

- The Brigade's advice is to always use the correct charger for the product and buy an official one from a reputable seller.
- Batteries can get warm during their use and it is advisable to allow them to cool down before attempting to re-charge as they could be more susceptible to failure.
- Batteries should always be charged on hard flat surfaces.
- Batteries can also pose a risk if they have been damaged, so try to ensure they are not getting knocked around while in use or while being carried as spares as this can increase the chance of damage to cells.
- Always make sure you unplug your charger once it's finished charging. Always follow manufacturers' instructions when charging and we would advise not to leave it unattended or while people are asleep.
- Ensure you have smoke alarms fitted where e-bikes or e-scooters are being charged.
- Lastly, never block your escape route with anything, including bikes and scooters. Store them somewhere away from a main through route.



The damage caused to one flat after a scooter caught fire while being charged in a bedroom

E-scooter battery shock sparks brigade warning

OWNERS of electric bikes and scooters are being warned to take care where they charge new batteries.

The warning comes after 21 year old Nihad Chemban was lucky to escape with his life after an electric bike battery caught fire while on charge in his bedroom.

Investigation teams have seen a rise in such incidents and want to encourage people who use these products to be aware of the risks and highlight the danger of storing them in escape routes in the home or in communal areas such as hallways in blocks of flats.

Mr Chemban and his flatmate were both at home when the fire broke out and his flatmate had to jump from a first-floor window as the bike was blocking his route to the front door.

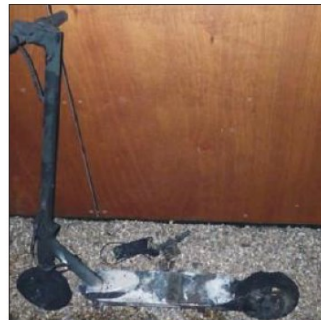
Already this year, firefighters in London have attended more than 25 fires involving electric bikes or scooters and some of them

have been significant incidents resulting in serious injuries.

In many cases, they are stored in escape routes or communal areas which can stop people being able to escape if they become involved in a fire. This year, there have been more than 120 fires in London which involved items stored in communal areas like halls and corridors.

Fire investigation officer Matt Cullen explained that a lot of the fires involve e-bike conversion kits (to convert a standard push bike into an electric bike rather than a purpose built one) which provide only the motors and control gear but batteries must be sourced separately.

The lithium-ion batteries have caused house fires in America and Australia; a woman died after a battery exploded in North Wales, and batteries have exploded in Ireland



One burnt out scooter