



**Avoid  
The  
Spark**

# Battery Safety Starts Here

How to recognize and handle damaged or defective batteries.

Damaged or defective batteries can pose safety risks if not handled properly. Knowing how to spot and manage them helps protect you, your home, and your community.

## Warning Signs: When a Battery Is Not Safe

If you see, smell, or feel any of these, stop using the battery immediately.



1. Swelling/ Bulging



2. Overheating



3. Smoke/ Vapor



4. Burning Smell



5. Cracks/ Leaks

*Corroded or leaking alkaline batteries are not considered damaged or defective.*

## What To Do

### 1. Move the battery to a safe area (if safe to do so)

- Stop using it immediately
- Move away from people and flammable materials, ideally outdoors or on a non-combustible surface
- Place in a non-flammable material such as sand or kitty litter

### 2. NEVER put it in the trash or recycling bin

Damaged or defective batteries can ignite, putting the people who transport and process these materials at risk.

### 3. Find a safe disposal option\*

- **Contact your local household hazardous waste (HHW) facility** for instructions on where to take your battery.
- **Purchase one of The Battery Network's approved DDR kits.** Visit [store.batterynetwork.org](https://store.batterynetwork.org) to learn more.

*\*If you live in New York or Washington, D.C., you may have additional drop-off options nearby. Use The Battery Network's drop-off locator and select "Damaged/Defective Battery" to find a participating site close to you: [batterynetwork.org/locator](https://batterynetwork.org/locator)*



**+ Additional safety and emergency information on the back →**

[batterynetwork.org](https://batterynetwork.org)



# Battery Safety Continues Here

What not to do and how to respond in an emergency.



## What Not To Do

- Do not puncture, crush, or open the battery
- Do not put in trash or recycling
- Do not ignore warning signs
- Do not keep charging a damaged device
- Do not place in water



## IN AN EMERGENCY

### If A Battery Starts Smoking or Catches Fire

- Evacuate the area immediately
- Call 911
- Stay clear of fumes and debris
- Do NOT use water to try to extinguish the battery

## Safe battery recycling starts with you.

Know the signs. Take action. Help keep your community safe.

*Damaged or defective batteries should NEVER be dropped off at one of The Battery Network's standard collection sites. Contact your local HHW facility or use The Battery Network's DDR kits to properly dispose of and recycle your battery.*



[batterynetwork.org](https://batterynetwork.org)