

Factsheet

Disposal of Lithium-ion Accumulators

Lithium-ion accumulators are part of our everyday lives and, of course, they are omnipresent in research at ETH. Lithium-ion accumulators must be regarded and treated as hazardous substances, both in everyday handling and for disposal purposes.

Disposal of undamaged lithium-ion accumulators

If the lithium-ion accumulator is merely drained and shows no signs of damage, hand it over to one of ETH Zurich's hazardous waste disposal facilities. When handing over lithium-ion batteries/accumulators, they must be secured against unintentional activation and short circuits. You find staffed hazardous waste disposal facilities in the Centre (building CNB) and on the Hönggerberg site (buildings HCI and HPL). At other locations such as Lindau/Eschikon, AgroVet Strickhof, Schwerzenbach, Technopark, notify your request for the collection of hazardous waste, including lithium-ion accumulators, via sgu-sonderabfall@ethz.ch or via the online form: «[Request for advice on disposal of hazardous waste](#)».

You can find the opening hours of the hazardous waste disposal facilities on the SSHE website, or by using the QR code provided below.

Disposal of damaged lithium-ion accumulators

You can recognise a damaged lithium-ion accumulator e.g. by a damaged or substantially deformed case (see Figure 1), by molten spots on the plastic case, or by heating up of an accumulator in the switched-off state. Accumulators with a weight per unit in excess of 500 grams are considered to be especially dangerous.



Figure 1: Swollen lithium-ion accumulator (source: SSHE)

If possible, secure the damaged / probably damaged lithium-ion accumulator using fire-extinguishing granules (e.g. PyroBubbles®) and notify the ETH Emergency Desk immediately:

- from internal phones: **888**
- from external phones: **041 44 342 11 88**

- State the following information:
 - Where?** Place where the incident occurred (building, floor, room no.)
 - What?** Nature of incident (defective/swollen lithium-ion accumulator, critical condition, piece weight and power capacity (Wh))
 - Who?** Name and phone no. of the caller
 - When?** When the incident took place
 - How many?** Number of people affected (if an incident occurred, e.g. a fire or an explosion)
 - Further information?** Additional information that might be important for the intervention
- Follow the instructions of the Emergency Desk
- Wait for the specialists from SSHE to call you back and follow their instructions

Legal basis

- Chemical Risk Reduction Ordinance (ORRChem)
- Ordinance on Movements of Waste (OMW)
- DETEC (Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications) Ordinance on Lists for Movements of Waste



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