

## 4 Top Tips: Lithium-ion powered devices onboard vessels

Matt Ruwald of Allmarine Power Solutions shares some advice for using lithium-ion powered devices, tools and toys onboard vessels.

1. If you have items such as cordless tools, electric surfboards and cordless vacuum cleaners stored on your vessel you should understand that these products generally are fitted with the more volatile blends of lithium-ion batteries. Such equipment can and have caught fire on vessels, resulting in a total loss of the vessel.
2. To be safe when using the above products onboard your vessel, never charge the above equipment if the battery is hot from use. Give the battery time to cool down. Never leave the equipment on charge when you are not on the vessel.
3. If you drop the equipment, check that the battery casing has not been cracked or damaged. If it has been damaged, don't charge the battery, replace it.
4. Total losses have also occurred where electric vehicle batteries have been installed on vessels, usually, but not always, on electric launches. The problem here is that the lithium-ion batteries used were not designed and built for the marine environment and have the wrong chemistry.



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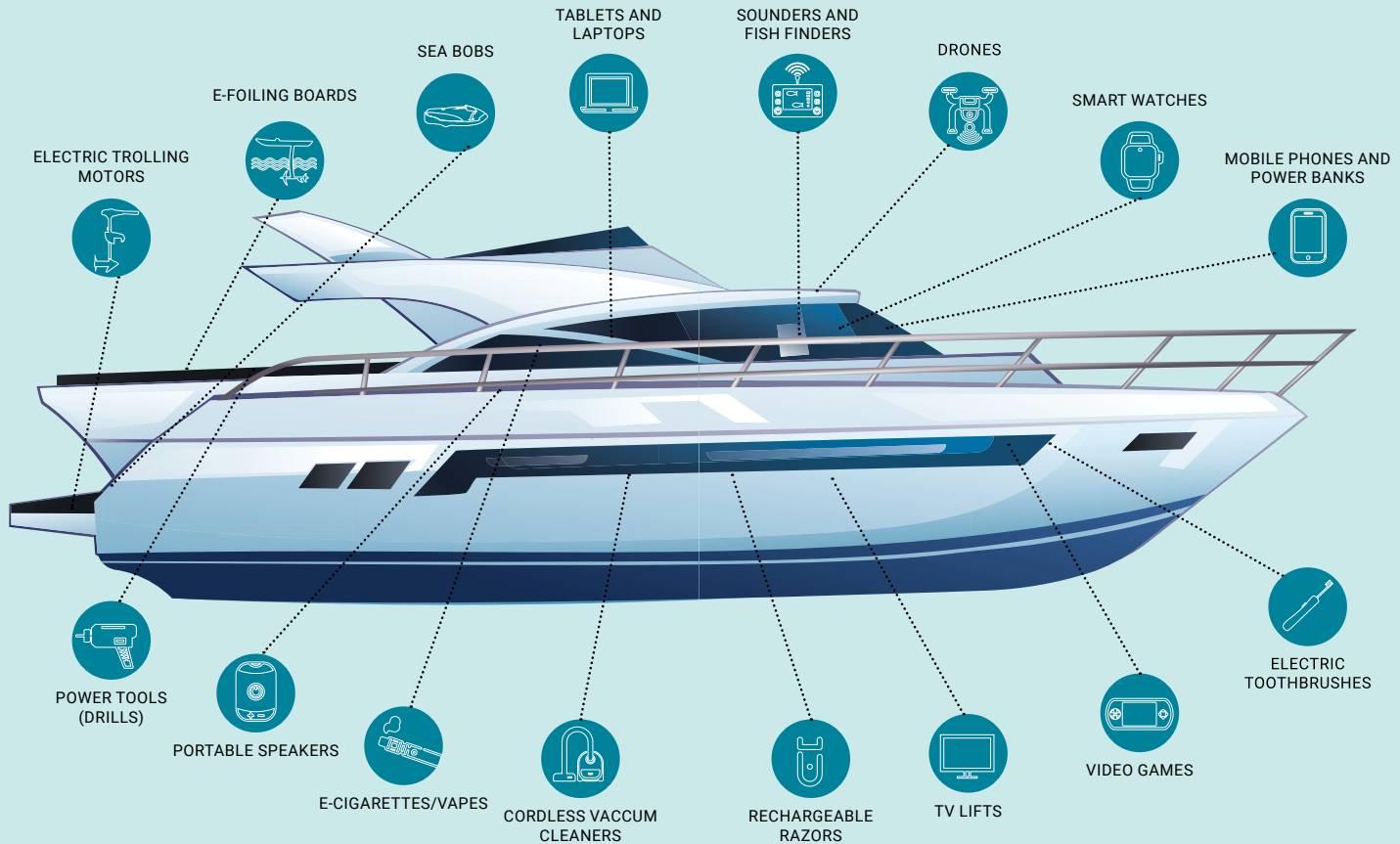
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# Protect your boat: understand the fire safety risks of lithium-ion batteries



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## Common items containing lithium-ion batteries that you may have on your boat.



## Safety best practices

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has shared some important safety advice within their recent report 'Lithium-ion Battery Safety' created by the CSIRO. We strongly recommend all vessel owners adhere to the safety advice put forward by the ACCC and CSIRO, whenever using or charging lithium-ion batteries onboard your vessel or at home.

1. Monitor charging times of lithium-ion products and disconnect products from chargers once they are fully charged. Consider setting timers as a reminder to unplug products.
2. Keep lithium-ion batteries out of household garbage or recycling bins and kerbside hard waste collections.
3. Charge lithium-ion batteries and products away from combustible materials such as beds, sofas or carpet.
4. Store batteries and lithium-ion products in cool, dry places and out of direct sunlight, including while charging.
5. Do not use batteries, products or chargers that are overheating or showing signs of failure such as swelling, leaking, or venting gas.
6. Check the charger you are using is suitable for the product being charged.
7. Allow time for batteries to cool after use and before charging.
8. In the event of a fire, consumers should contact 000 immediately. For more information on what to do in case of fire or explosion contact your state or territory fire department.

**Source: 'Lithium-ion Battery Safety' report created by the CSIRO for the ACCC.**