

Prohibition on Storage and Charging of Lithium-Ion Battery Devices, Including E-Bikes and Scooters, on Campus Property

The City of New York has experienced a significant rise in fires and explosions caused by lithium-ion batteries, particularly those used in e-bikes and other personal electric mobility devices. These incidents have resulted in severe injuries, fatalities, and extensive property damage. The New York City Fire Department (FDNY) continues to warn the public about the dangers of improperly manufactured, damaged, or overcharged batteries. Lithium-ion batteries pose particular risks when charged indoors or stored in confined spaces due to their potential for overheating, chemical fires, and toxic smoke release.

As a result, Barnard College prohibits the storage, charging, or use of any e-bike, e-scooter, hoverboard, or similar lithium-ion battery-powered device; making them strictly prohibited in all campus buildings and all campus housing. This includes, but is not limited to in the following areas:

- Residence halls
- Academic buildings
- Administrative offices
- Dining facilities
- Basements, stairwells, and common areas

Any lithium-ion battery-powered device found on the Barnard campus will be confiscated. Students and staff who use such devices for transportation must secure and charge them **off-campus** in compliance with local laws and [FDNY safety guidelines](#). The only suitable place to hold these devices while at work is with a lock and chain at either the 117th & Broadway bike rack or the 119th & Broadway bike rack. Barnard College does not provide any other storage or charging accommodations for e-bikes or similar devices.

Safety Reminders

To reduce fire hazards and protect our community:

- **Do not** bring lithium-ion batteries or devices into any campus building.

- **Do not** throw lithium-ion batteries into the trash or recycling.
- **Do not** attempt to repair or modify lithium-ion batteries.
- **Only use** manufacturer-approved batteries and chargers for personal devices (e.g., laptops, phones).
- **Report** any suspicious odors, smoke, or overheating electronic devices immediately to the Barnard Community Safety team at 212-854-6666 or in Barnard Hall room 104.