

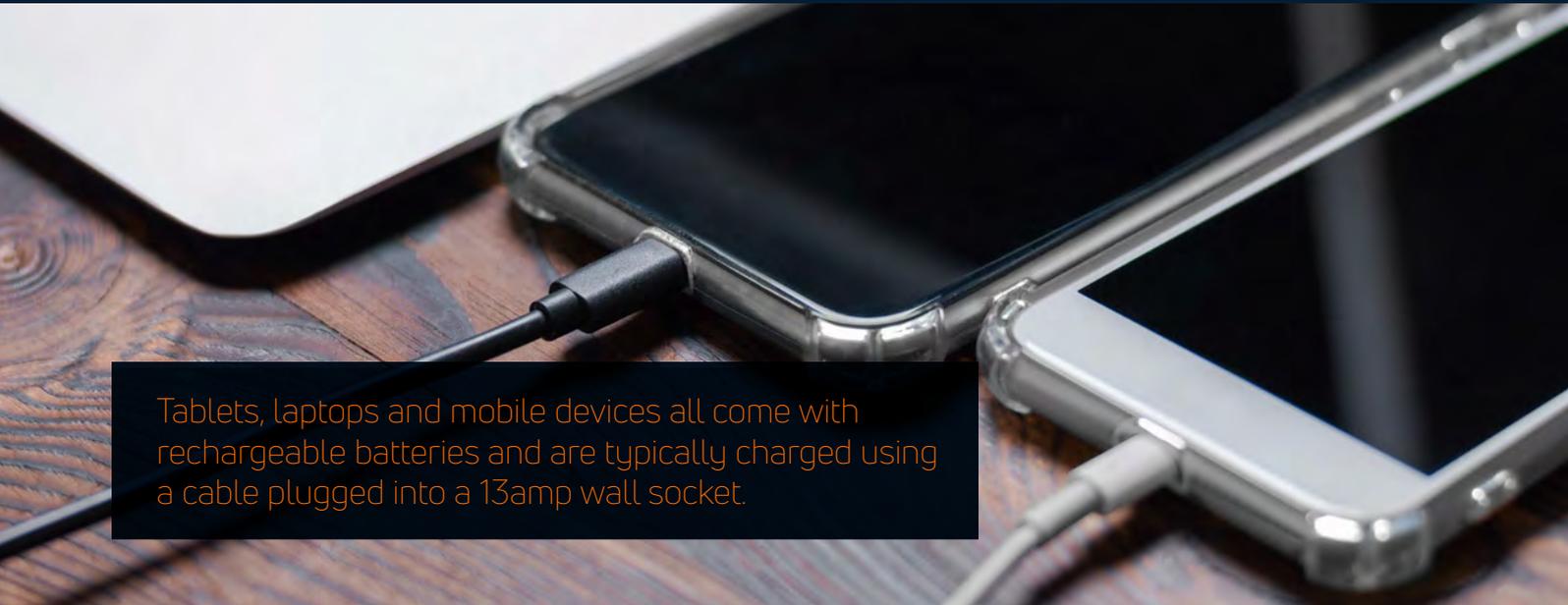
Battery powered smart devices

This guidance highlights some of the hazards associated with the charging of smart devices and the steps that can be taken to reduce or mitigate them.

RISK ADVICE LINE

Having read this guidance should you have any additional questions on this topic or other risk related matters, as a valued Ecclesiastical customer you can contact us through our 'Risk Advice Line' on 0345 600 7531 (Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm, excluding bank holidays) and one of our in-house risk professionals will be able to assist. Alternatively you can email us at risk.advice@ecclesiastical.com and one of our experts will call you back within 24 hours.

For queries about your policy cover or claims please contact your insurance broker.



Tablets, laptops and mobile devices all come with rechargeable batteries and are typically charged using a cable plugged into a 13amp wall socket.

In order to reduce the risk of fire from charging such devices the following precautions are recommended:

All batteries should be stored, charged and used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions

Any battery that has been damaged, dented or pierced should be taken out of service immediately and disposed of safely. Similarly, damaged devices containing batteries should also be segregated and stored safely pending disposal.

When charging, the device should be sited on a level, firm surface with charging leads long enough to attach to the device with which it is designed to be used without placing the leads under stress.

No flammable or combustible material, other than that associated with the device or charger, should be stored within 2 metres of the charging area.

If your premises provides sleeping accommodation, consideration should be given to using timers to control electrical socket outlets used for charging equipment, to eliminate the fire hazard at times when people may be asleep or few staff are on duty.

All equipment should be regularly inspected and tested as part of your portable electrical equipment testing regime. In respect of boarding schools and other similar residential accommodation, this should include pupil's devices.

Many products contain lithium-ion batteries. When charging, they should not be covered and should not be left on charge while unattended. Lithium-ion batteries should not be overcharged.

Whatever the choice of battery, it is imperative that the correct charger designed for use with that particular product be used. This will ensure that the battery charging commences at the right level and ceases before overcharging occurs.

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