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# How to Safely Send Batteries and Battery Powered Devices by Mail

Persons wishing to ship lithium batteries and electronic devices containing lithium batteries by mail should be aware that certain requirements must be met to ensure safety during transport.

The easiest way to make sure that these requirements are met, and to ensure safety and avoid problems, is to have the retailer ship the package directly to the affected area.

In the event the package cannot be shipped directly from the retailer, you can ship most consumer-type lithium batteries and electronic devices containing lithium batteries—including power banks, laptops, tablets, and cell phones—safely and easily if certain precautions are taken.

## Here are some things to remember:

1. All batteries need to be protected against:
  - Short circuits
  - Movement within the outer packaging
  - Accidental activation of the lithium powered device

The best way to do this is to keep batteries in the original, manufacturer-sealed packaging.

2. If batteries are not sealed in manufacturer packaging, the battery terminals should be protected (e.g., covered with tape, placed in separate bags) to prevent short circuits.
3. Batteries and electronic devices containing batteries should be securely packed to prevent movement within the outer packaging, or activation of the device.
4. Do not package batteries loosely or with metal objects, such as tools.
5. Place batteries and electronic devices containing batteries in a rigid, strong outer packaging.
6. When shipping lithium batteries, always check with your carrier first as they may require additional paperwork or shipping labels.

For more information on shipping lithium batteries by United States Postal Service, you can visit them online ([https://pe.usps.com/text/pub52/pub52apxc\\_032.htm](https://pe.usps.com/text/pub52/pub52apxc_032.htm)), or contact them at 212-330-5300 or [postalexplorer@usps.gov](mailto:postalexplorer@usps.gov).

For shipments made using carriers other than the United States Postal Service, please refer to [49 CFR 173.185](#) for detailed requirements related to shipments of lithium batteries, including those contained in electronic devices.

You can also contact the PHMSA Hazardous Materials Information Center at **1-800-467-4922** or [phmsa.hm-infocenter@dot.gov](mailto:phmsa.hm-infocenter@dot.gov).

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Electronic devices containing lithium batteries



Place batteries and electronic devices containing batteries in a rigid, strong outer packaging