LITHIUM BATTERIES & PERSONAL PROPERTY

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Visit the Personal Property Activity website at ppa.mil for more information.

Most households have items that are powered by lithium batteries, but not all lithium batteries can be moved in your personal property due to chemical, fire, and electrical hazards. To ensure your personal property arrives safely during your next move, please review this important information.
Note: All lithium batteries are prohibited from being stored in Non-Temporary Storage shipments.

What are the types of lithium batteries commonly found in most households?

1. Lithium metal batteries: Typically found in cameras, watches, remote controls, handheld games, and smoke detectors. Lithium metal batteries are single use, non-rechargeable, and come in various forms including cylindrical, button cells, or coin cells.
2. Lithium-ion batteries: These are commonly used in cellphones, power tools, digital cameras, laptops, children's toys, e-cigarettes, robot vacuums, small and large appliances, tablets, e-readers, lawn care equipment, and e-bikes. Lithium-ion batteries are rechargeable and intended for multiple use.

Do lithium batteries need to be identified to my moving company during the pre-move survey and pack-out?
Yes, because not all lithium batteries can be shipped. Due to the hazards stated above, the size and quantity of lithium batteries may be limited to ensure safe movement of your personal property. Additionally, it is important to verify that they are in working condition without damage (i.e., major dents, cracks, etc.).

What lithium batteries can I ship?
You can ship personal property items containing lithium batteries, as long as each individual battery meets specific limits. It is important to know that these limits apply to each battery separately and are not a combined total for your entire shipment. The limits are as follows:

- All individual lithium-ion batteries must be 100 watt-hours or less.
- All lithium-metal batteries must contain 2 grams of lithium or less.

All batteries must be in good working condition and properly packaged, labeled, and certified as required.
Note: If airlines accepts shipment of lithium batteries, the shipment limitations are two lithium batteries per shipment at limited sizes previously stated.

Who is responsible for certifying lithium batteries are properly packaged prior to shipment?
Your moving company is responsible for packing according to applicable laws and preparing certification documentation for applicable mode(s) of transportation.

How can I identify a lithium battery?
Look for the words "lithium battery" or the symbol "Li" directly on the battery itself, as typically marked by the manufacturer. If the battery isn't identified with these markings then you can refer to your owner's manual for that particular item (i.e., power tool, digital camera, laptop, robot vacuum, etc.). If a battery can't be identified as lithium, the moving company is not required to pack the battery. This is due to not being able to properly pack a potentially hazardous item based on its specifications.

How can I determine the watt-hours (lithium-ion battery) or grams (lithium metal) of a lithium battery?
The power rating is sometimes printed on the battery or the information can be found online. You can also calculate the power with simple equations.

- For lithium-ion batteries, you multiply its volts (V) by its amp-hour (Ah). Many batteries are listed in milliamp-hours (mAh) which must be converted to amp-hours by dividing the mAh value by 1,000. For example, a battery with 3.7 volts and 3,500 mAh (or 3.5 Ah), would be 3.7 V x 3.5 Ah = 12.95 watt-hours, which is well under the 100 watt-hour limit.
- For lithium-metal batteries, you find the lithium content in grams by multiplying the battery's amp-hours by 0.3.

What if my battery is over the sizes allowed to be shipped?
Lithium batteries over the size limit are prohibited from being shipped in personal property. You must find alternative methods at your expense to get them to your destination or properly dispose of them. Per the Environmental Protection Agency, lithium batteries must not be put in the trash or municipal recycling bins. If a lithium battery is prohibited and removable from an item, then it should be removed and item shipped without the battery.

Your Responsibilities:

- Prior to your pre-move survey with your moving company, gather and identify all lithium batteries and devices containing lithium batteries you would like to ship with your personal property.
- On packing day, ensure all lithium batteries and lithium-powered devices (especially those with non-removable batteries that are allowed in your shipment) are easily accessible and clearly identified for your packers.

Moving Company's Responsibilities:

- Determine if lithium batteries identified by you during pre-move survey are allowed based on the 100 watt-hour or less for lithium-ion or 2 grams or less for lithium metal.
- Properly package and mark all allowed lithium batteries and lithium-powered devices, and identify them on the inventory.

WHO TO CALL FOR HELP

1. Local transportation office (TO):
https://installations.militaryonesource.mil/search?program-service=39/view-by=ALL

2. Branch of service customer call centers:

Army:	Navy:	Marine Corps, Air Force, Space Force, or Coast Guard: Contact your local TO
520-706-8613	855-444-6683	

3. Personal Property Activity Call Center:
833-MIL-MOVE (833-645-6683)

PPA Customer Call Center: PCSCallCenter@mail.mil
DPS or MilMove Technical Help: transcom-ppa-dtsc@mail.mil

Provide feedback via Customer Satisfaction Surveys

Your feedback helps determines which moving companies get DoW's business. Please let us know if you were satisfied (or not!). Complete your survey by clicking on the link you receive via email or text. This can be completed on any computer or mobile device.