

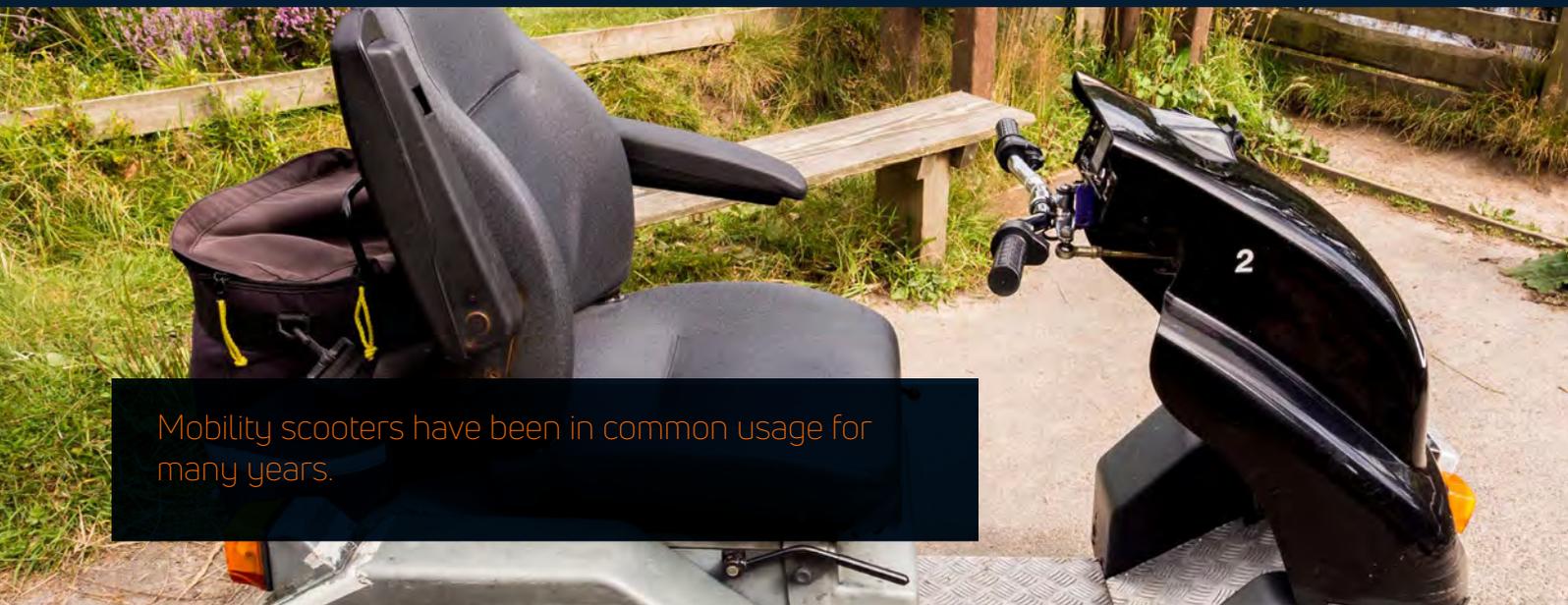
# Battery charging: mobility scooters and golf buggies

This guidance highlights some of the hazards associated with the storing and charging of electric vehicles 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](mailto: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.



Mobility scooters have been in common usage for many years.

They have more recently been joined by golf buggies and similar, which are sometimes used as shuttles for visitors and for running errands at country hotels, shows and similar venues.

## Safety considerations

You should not park or store electric vehicles and mobility scooters in escape routes where they may form an obstruction in the event of the building being evacuated.

If you are responsible for a care home, blocks of flats, sheltered homes or similar accommodation you should have a policy in place for the use of mobility scooters in communal areas.

While it is recognised that the users of such vehicles have mobility difficulties, in sleeping accommodation, mobility scooters should not be taken to floors above access level.

Wherever possible, you should charge electric vehicles and mobility scooters in locations designed for this purpose, and store there when not in use for prolonged periods of time. Charging of these vehicles in communal areas should be prohibited.

Storage/charging areas for electric vehicles should have direct access from outside the building and provide at least 60-minutes fire resistance in the event of a fire in the room. Where there is a door allowing access to the premises from the store, the door should also provide at least 60-minutes fire resistance.

Your site policy relating to mobility scooters should recognise that there may be a maximum number of scooters that may be safely used, charged and stored on your premises.

To minimise life safety implications, mobility scooters should not be charged at night when people may be asleep in the building.

Where a portable charger is in use for mobility scooters and the like, it should be periodically PAT tested.

All users and owners of mobility scooters should be instructed in the charging and maintenance of their machines at the time of purchase or leasing.

Chargers intended for use with mobility scooters should be supplied from a dedicated circuit rather than from one of the ring mains in the premises. The charging circuit should be linked so as to automatically isolate the charging circuits safely in the event of actuation of the automatic fire detection and alarm system in the building or failure of the mains power supply. Power circuits should be configured to require manual resetting of the isolator when the power is restored.

The use of temporary extension leads and adaptors for charging mobility scooters must be avoided.

The batteries of mobility scooters should not be covered by blankets or any other combustible materials when being charged.

## Fire protection

Charging and storage areas for electric vehicles and mobility scooters should be protected by the automatic fire detection and alarm system installed in your premises.

The fire alarm should be monitored either on-site or by an off-site alarm receiving centre.

Your fire alarm should be interfaced so as to isolate the power supply to vehicle and mobility scooter chargers in the event of the fire alarm actuating.

A suitable number of appropriate, serviced, portable fire extinguishers should be available and immediately accessible in case of a fire, with staff trained in their use.

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