



An Extended Guide · No. 1984

Charger & Battery Recalls — How to Check What You Own

A quick, calm way to look
up recalls and act on them

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Let's see if anything you own has been recalled

Every so often a charger, a power bank, or a battery turns out to have a safety problem, and the maker or the government asks people to stop using it. This guide shows you how to check what you own — calmly, in a few minutes, without any worry.

I'm Bill, and I run Bill's Home Tech here in Portage County, Ohio. I've spent 30+ years helping folks get comfortable with the gear in their homes. A recall sounds scary, but looking one up is genuinely easy once someone shows you where to look. That's all we're doing here.

You don't need to panic or throw anything out in a hurry. Most of what's in your home is perfectly fine. The point is simply to know how to check, so that if you ever hear 'there's been a recall,' you can find out in two minutes whether it's yours.

★ I'm glad to check alongside you

If you'd rather not do this on your own, bring me your chargers and power banks, or read me the model off one over the phone. Call or text (330) 200-8042 and I'll look it up with you, free.

The whole guide, on one page

If you remember only these things, you'll be able to check any charger or battery you own.

- ❑ Recalls are posted at **cpsc.gov/Recalls** — search by product or brand.
- ❑ **SaferProducts.gov** lists both safety reports and recalls, too.
- ❑ Check the **maker's own website** or support page for your exact model.
- ❑ **Lithium power banks** and magnetic battery chargers have been a repeated recall category lately — worth a look.
- ❑ If yours is recalled, **stop using it right away** and follow the notice (refund, replacement, or disposal).
- ❑ A recalled lithium item goes to a **battery recycler or hazardous-waste site**, never the trash.
- ❑ **Register new gear** and sign up for recall email alerts so the news comes to you.

✓ One habit that does the work for you

Sign up once for the free recall email alerts, and from then on you don't have to go looking — if something you might own is recalled, a note lands in your inbox. We'll show you where to sign up.

What a recall actually means

A little plain-English background takes the fear out of the word 'recall' and makes the rest of this guide make sense.

A recall is simply an official notice that a product has a safety problem and shouldn't be used as-is. With chargers and batteries, the usual worry is overheating — a risk of fire or a burn. The maker, often working with a government safety agency, offers a fix: a refund, a free replacement, or instructions to dispose of it safely.

A recall isn't a sign you did anything wrong, and it doesn't mean disaster is around the corner. It means someone caught a problem and is trying to get the word out. Your only job is to find out whether one of your things is on the list, and if so, to follow the simple steps they give you.

✓ Recalls are a good thing working

It's easy to hear 'recall' and feel alarmed, but a recall is the safety system doing exactly what it should. The gear that worries me more is the no-name kind that no one is watching closely enough to recall at all.

The places to look — and they're free

There are three dependable places to check, and none of them cost a thing or ask for anything but a product name.

The main one is the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission — the CPSC. Its recall list lives at [cpsc.gov/Recalls](https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls), and you can search it by product type or by brand name. A second government site, [SaferProducts.gov](https://www.saferproducts.gov), carries both recalls and reports people have filed about products, which can be an early warning.

The third place is the maker's own website. Most companies post a 'recall' or 'product safety' page, and their support page can tell you whether your exact model is affected. Between the CPSC list and the maker's site, you can settle almost any question in a few minutes.

✓ Type the plain name of the thing

You don't need fancy search words. On [cpsc.gov/Recalls](https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls), type something like 'power bank' or the brand printed on your charger. The list does the rest. If reading the screen is a strain, this is a fine thing to call me about.

Looking up a recall, step by step

Here's the whole process, slowly. There's a picture version of these steps a few pages on, too.

First, gather the details off the item itself: the brand name and the model number, usually printed in tiny letters on the back or bottom, or on a little label. Jot them down so you're not squinting back and forth. Your phone's camera, zoomed in, makes that print much easier to read.

Next, go to [cpsc.gov/Recalls](https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls) and type the brand or the product type into the search box. Scan the results for your item. Then, to be thorough, visit the maker's website and look for a 'recall' or 'safety' page, and check whether your model number is listed there.

✓ Your phone camera is a magnifier

Model numbers are printed cruelly small. Open your phone's camera, point it at the label, and pinch to zoom — the letters jump right out, no reading glasses required. We cover this trick in our [telling-cables-apart](#) guide too.

The details that help you match a recall

Recalls are usually tied to specific models and batches, so a little information makes your search quick and certain.

- **The brand name** — the maker printed on the item or its plug.
- **The model number** — often a short mix of letters and numbers on a label.
- **What kind of thing it is** — a wall charger, a power bank, a battery pack, a magnetic charger.
- **When and where you bought it** — the receipt or order history, if you have it.
- **Any batch or lot code** — sometimes printed near the model number.

✓ A photo of the label is your friend

Rather than copying tiny numbers by hand, snap a clear photo of the label. You can zoom into it, read it back to someone, or keep it with your records. One picture saves a lot of squinting.

Why power banks and magnetic chargers come up a lot

If you own a portable charger or one of the little magnetic battery pads for a phone, this page is especially worth a minute.

Lithium power banks — the portable chargers you carry in a bag — and the MagSafe-style magnetic battery chargers that snap onto the back of a phone have been a repeated recall category recently, for fire and burn hazards. I'm not naming brands, because the specific lists change over time; the point is that this whole category is worth checking.

That isn't a reason to fear the one in your bag. It's a reason to look it up once at [cpsc.gov/Recalls](https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls), and to sign up for alerts so you hear about any future recall. Our swollen-battery guide and our rechargeable-batteries guide cover how to spot and handle a lithium item that's going bad.

! Watch a power bank for swelling, too

Even if a power bank isn't recalled, stop using it if it looks puffy, dented, or split at a seam, or if it gets hot. That's its own warning sign — our swollen-battery guide walks through exactly what to do.

Two kinds of households, two sets of needs

Checking a recall feels different depending on what you're doing. The lookup is the same; what you start with isn't.

If you're checking a single worrying gadget

Maybe you heard something on the news, or a charger of yours is getting warm, and you just want to know about that one item. Your goal is a quick, clear yes-or-no.

- Read the brand and model off the item and jot them down.
- Search that brand at [cpsc.gov/Recalls](https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls), then check the maker's site.
- If it's listed, stop using it and follow the notice's steps.
- If it's not, you can relax — maybe sign up for alerts while you're there.

If you're auditing a household full of chargers and power banks

A busy home gathers chargers, power banks, and battery packs over the years. Your goal is to sweep through them once and set up an early-warning system.

- Gather every charger, power bank, and battery pack into one spot.
- Photograph each label so you have the models in one place.
- Check the lithium ones first — power banks and magnetic chargers.
- Sign up for CPSC email alerts so future recalls come to you.

★ Let's do the household sweep together

Rounding up and checking every charger and power bank is a perfect kitchen-table job. Lay them all out and I'll help you read each label, look it up, and set up alerts so you're covered going forward. Call (330) 200-8042.

What to do if something of yours is on the list

If you do find one of your items in a recall, don't worry — there's a clear, short path from here, and the maker lays most of it out for you.

First, stop using it right away, and stop charging it. Then read the recall notice carefully: it will tell you the remedy, which is usually a refund, a free replacement, or instructions to dispose of the item safely. Follow those steps in order, and keep any confirmation they send you.

There's no rush to throw the item in the trash — in fact, for a battery or power bank, the trash is exactly where it must not go. Set it somewhere safe, away from anything that could burn, until you've followed the notice.

! Stop using a recalled lithium item — and recycle it right

If a recalled charger, power bank, or battery is a lithium item, stop using and charging it the moment you learn of the recall, and keep it away from anything flammable. Never put it in the regular trash or curbside recycling — a damaged lithium battery can catch fire. Follow the recall notice, and when it's time to dispose of it, take it to a battery-recycling drop-off or your county household-hazardous-waste site. If it is hot, hissing, smoking, or leaking, get away from it and call 911.

Getting rid of a recalled lithium item safely

This is the step people get stuck on, so let's make it concrete. A recalled battery or power bank needs a proper recycler, not your curb.

Many home-improvement stores, phone shops, and battery stores host free battery-recycling drop-off bins. Your county also runs a household-hazardous-waste collection site. Because a recalled or damaged lithium item counts as damaged, it's safest to call ahead — some drop-off bins take only undamaged batteries, while the hazardous-waste site will take the damaged ones.

Always follow the recall notice first, though. Some recalls ask you to return the item in a special package they provide, or to dispose of it a particular way. Do what the notice says, and when it leaves disposal up to you, use the battery-recycling path — never the trash.

✓ A quick phone call saves a wasted trip

Before you drive anywhere, call the drop-off and say plainly, 'I have a recalled lithium power bank — do you take damaged batteries?' Two minutes on the phone means you go to the right place the first time.

Getting your refund or replacement

A recall usually comes with a remedy, and it's often money back or a new unit at no cost. Here's how to claim it without fuss.

The recall notice will explain how to get your remedy — commonly an online form or a phone number, where you enter or read off the model and sometimes a batch code. They may ask for a photo of the item or proof of purchase, which is where a saved receipt earns its keep. Follow their steps and keep any confirmation number they give you.

If they offer a replacement, you usually don't send the old one back unless they ask — and if it's a lithium item, they'll often tell you to recycle it rather than mail it. Read the notice for which they want, and don't pay for shipping or a 'processing fee' a legitimate recall won't ask for.

! Watch out for recall scams

Scammers sometimes copy real recalls to phish for your details. A genuine recall won't ask for your bank account, a gift card, or a fee. Start from [cpsc.gov/Recalls](https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls) or the maker's own site, not from a link in a surprise email or text. When in doubt, call me first at (330) 200-8042.

Let the recalls come to you

The nicest trick in this whole guide: sign up once, and you never have to go hunting again.

The CPSC offers free recall email alerts. Sign up once with your email address, and whenever a new recall is announced, a notice lands in your inbox. You skim it, decide whether it's something you own, and move on. No calendar reminders, no checking a website every month.

This is especially handy for the lithium category — power banks and magnetic chargers — that sees recalls fairly often. You'll hear about a problem close to when it's announced, rather than months later by chance.

✓ Add it to your 'good email' habits

Treat a recall alert like any other important note: read it, act if it's yours, delete it if it isn't. And remember the scam warning — act on alerts that come from your own sign-up, not from strangers.

Register new chargers and power banks

When you buy something new, a two-minute step now means the maker can reach you directly if there's ever a problem.

Many chargers, power banks, and electronics come with a way to register the product — a little card, a website address, or a QR code in the box. Registering tells the maker how to contact you, so if that exact model is ever recalled, they can send the notice straight to you instead of hoping you see the news.

You don't have to give them much — usually a name, an email, and the model. You can skip any marketing sign-up. The one thing worth doing is the safety registration, because that's the channel a recall travels through.

✓ Do it the day it arrives

The easiest time to register something is the moment you unbox it, while the card and model number are right in front of you. Pair it with saving the receipt, and you're fully covered in one sitting.

Checking the maker's own website

The CPSC list is the big net; the maker's own site is where you confirm your exact model, down to the batch.

Most companies keep a 'product safety,' 'recall,' or 'support' page on their website. There you can often type in your model or serial number and get a plain yes-or-no about whether your unit is affected. This is the surest way to settle a nagging worry about one specific item.

If you can't find such a page, the maker's customer-support phone number or email works too — give them the model and batch code and ask directly. Reputable makers would far rather hear from you than have you keep using a recalled item.

★ I'll help you navigate an unfamiliar website

Finding the right page on a company's site can be a maze. If you tell me the brand and model, I'll walk you to the exact recall-check page, or do the lookup with you on a screen-share. Call or text (330) 200-8042.

Keep the model info and receipts

A little record-keeping turns a future recall from a scramble into a two-minute chore. You don't need a filing cabinet — just one spot.

For the chargers, power banks, and batteries you rely on, keep the model information and the receipt or order confirmation together in one place — a folder, an envelope, or a photo album on your phone. If a recall ever asks for proof of purchase or a model number, you'll have it in hand.

A photo of each label, kept in an album titled 'chargers' on your phone, is the easiest system of all. It travels with you, it's easy to zoom into, and you can read a number straight off it when you're on the phone with a recall line.

✓ One envelope by the junk drawer

Tuck receipts and little registration cards into one labeled envelope near where your cables live. Our labeling guide and our mystery-cable-drawer guide take this tidy-up further if you enjoy it.

The mistakes I see most often

A few understandable habits make recalls more confusing or more dangerous than they need to be. Now you'll know to skip them.

- **Throwing a recalled battery in the trash** — a damaged lithium item can start a fire; use a recycler.
- **Keeping a recalled charger 'just for a backup'** — if it's recalled, it's done; don't keep it in a drawer.
- **Acting on a recall link in a surprise email** — start from [cpsc.gov/Recalls](https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls) or the maker, not a stranger's link.
- **Assuming no-name gear is safe because it isn't recalled** — unwatched products may never be listed at all.
- **Tossing receipts and registration cards** — they're what a refund or replacement often asks for.

! A recalled item is not a spare

It's tempting to keep a recalled charger or power bank in a drawer 'in case.' Please don't — the whole reason it was recalled is that it isn't safe to use. Follow the notice and recycle it properly instead.

If you look after an older parent's gear

Older households often hold chargers and power banks bought years ago, exactly the sort of thing a recall might reach. A gentle check helps.

On a visit, round up their chargers, power banks, and battery packs and give the lithium ones a quick look-up at [cpsc.gov/Recalls](https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls). Older folks may not follow product news, and may keep using a charger long after a recall has come and gone. A few minutes of checking is real peace of mind.

While you're at it, sign them up for recall email alerts — or point the alerts at your own inbox, if you're the one who watches these things for them. And make sure they know the one rule: if a charger gets hot or a power bank looks puffy, stop using it and call you or me.

★ I'm happy to do that check-up

On any visit I'll look over the household's chargers and power banks for recalls and for swelling, set up alerts, and sort out safe recycling for anything that needs it. A quiet bit of peace of mind. Call (330) 200-8042.

What if it's not recalled but still worries you?

Sometimes a charger or power bank isn't on any list, yet something about it feels off. Trust that instinct — a recall isn't the only reason to retire a thing.

If a charger runs hot, smells odd, has a frayed cord or a cracked case, or if a power bank is puffy or dented, set it aside regardless of whether it's recalled. Not every unsafe item ever gets recalled, especially cheap, unbranded ones that no agency is watching closely.

You can file a report at [SaferProducts.gov](https://www.saferproducts.gov) describing the problem — that's part of how future recalls get started. And you can replace the item with one from a reputable maker, a point we make in our [safe-charger-shopping guide](#).

! A hot or damaged charger goes out of service

Whether or not it's recalled, stop using any charger that overheats, sparks, smells of burning, or has a damaged cord or case. For a lithium power bank that's puffy or dented, follow the [recycle-it-safely path](#) — never the trash — just as you would for a recalled one.

A calm word to end on

I want to leave you reassured, not rattled. Recalls are a normal, manageable part of owning gadgets.

The vast majority of what's in your home will never be recalled, and the few items that are come with clear instructions and, usually, your money back. Knowing where to check — [cpsc.gov/Recalls](https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls), [SaferProducts.gov](https://www.SaferProducts.gov), and the maker's site — means a recall is never a mystery, just a quick look-up.

So set up those email alerts, keep a couple of receipts, and get on with your day. If a recall ever does land on something of yours, you now know exactly what to do — and you know you can call me to do it together.

★ You don't have to watch for this alone

Keeping an eye on recalls for a household is exactly the kind of quiet, ongoing help I'm glad to give. Set it up once with me and you can stop worrying about it. Call or text (330) 200-8042.

Your quick reference, start to finish

The short version you can lean on any time you wonder about a charger or battery.

- ❑ Read the brand and model off the item — zoom in with your phone camera.
- ❑ Search it at [cpsc.gov/Recalls](https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls), and check [SaferProducts.gov](https://www.SaferProducts.gov).
- ❑ Check the maker's own recall or support page for your exact model.
- ❑ Check lithium power banks and magnetic chargers first.
- ❑ If recalled: stop using it and follow the notice — refund, replace, or dispose.
- ❑ Recycle a recalled lithium item at a drop-off or hazardous-waste site, not the trash.
- ❑ Register new gear and sign up for free recall email alerts.

★ Keep this guide in the drawer

You don't have to hold any of this in your head. Keep these pages with your home papers, and when in doubt, I'm a phone call away at (330) 200-8042.

Common Questions

The questions I hear most about charger and battery recalls, answered plainly.

Q: Where do I check if something is recalled?

Start at [cpsc.gov/Recalls](https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls) and search by product type or brand. [SaferProducts.gov](https://www.saferproducts.gov) lists recalls and safety reports too, and the maker's own website can confirm your exact model. All of them are free.

Q: I heard power banks get recalled a lot — should I worry?

Lithium power banks and magnetic battery chargers have been a repeated recall category lately, so they're worth checking. That's not a reason to fear yours — just look it up once and sign up for email alerts so you hear about any future recall.

Q: My charger is recalled — what do I do first?

Stop using it and stop charging it right away, then read the recall notice and follow its steps, which usually means a refund, a free replacement, or safe disposal. Don't keep it as a backup.

Q: Can I just throw a recalled battery in the trash?

No. A damaged lithium battery or power bank can catch fire if crushed or jostled. Follow the recall notice, and when it's time to dispose of it, use a battery-recycling drop-off or your county hazardous-waste site.

Q: How do I make sure I hear about recalls in the future?

Sign up once for the free CPSC recall email alerts, and register new chargers and power banks with their makers. Then the news comes to you instead of you having to go looking.

★ Not sure about something you own?

Checking a recall is a quick, satisfying little job, and a good excuse to tidy up your chargers while we're at it. Call or text (330) 200-8042 and we'll look it up together.

You don't have to do this alone

You just have to remember that a friendly, patient person is one call away.

I hope this guide made checking your chargers and batteries for recalls feel a little less daunting and a lot more doable. Keep it in a drawer with your other home papers, come back to a page whenever you need it, and don't worry about memorizing anything.

When you'd rather have a hand, that's exactly what I do. I come to your home, work at your pace, and never make you feel rushed or silly for asking. A first visit is a flat \$99, and for the parts that don't need me on-site I can often help right on your screen for \$49. Every visit comes with a 30-day, come-back-free guarantee. I don't do licensed electrical, gas, or appliance-repair work myself — for that I'll help you line up a trustworthy local pro.

★ Bill's Home Tech — real help, close to home

Call or text me at (330) 200-8042, or visit BillsHomeTech.com. Serving Atwater and all of Portage County. 30+ years of patient, plain-English tech help — and if you're ever not 100% happy with a visit, I'll make it right or refund it. That's a promise. — Bill

How to Check a Recall

A few calm minutes settles any worry



Zoom in with your phone camera to read the tiny model print.

Where to Check a Recall

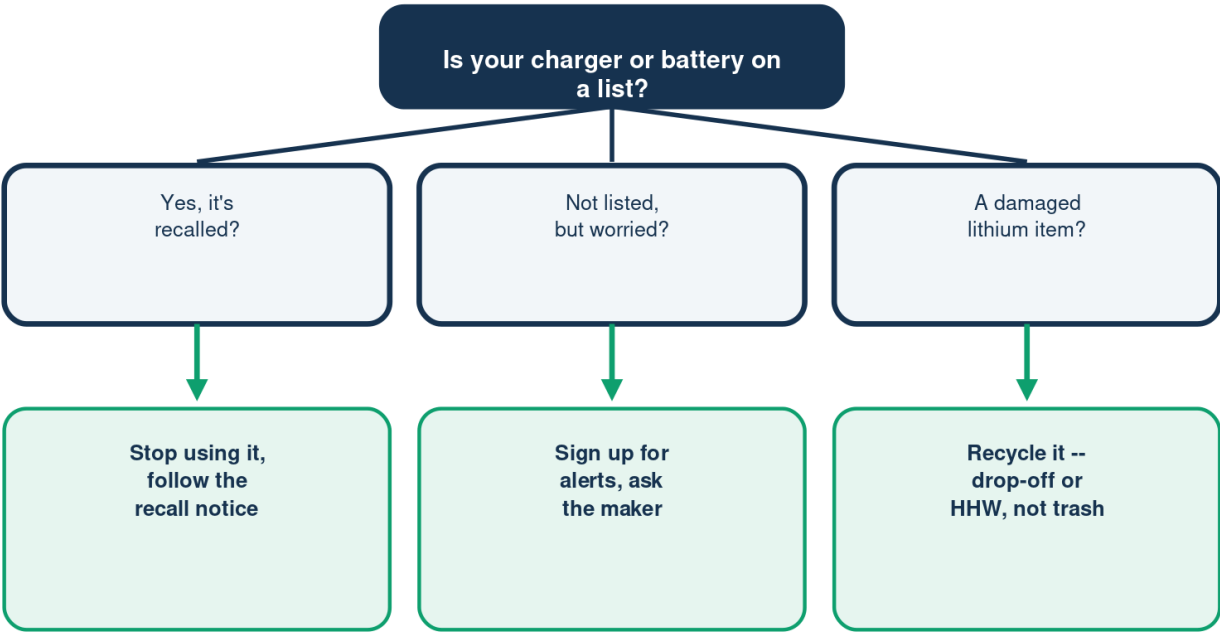
Three free places, a few minutes each

	Where to look	What you'll find
CPSC list	cpsc.gov/Recalls	Search by brand
Reports site	SaferProducts.gov	Reports + recalls
The maker	Support page	Your exact model
Your inbox	CPSC alerts	New recalls sent

Start from these, never a link in a surprise email or text.

Is It Recalled -- What Now?

Let what you found guide your next step



A recalled item is not a spare -- don't keep using it.

Illustration - a schematic, not to scale. Your setup may differ.

Do This, Not That

The safe choice versus the risky instinct

	Do	Never
Recalled item	Stop using it	Keep using it
A refund offer	Use official site	Trust a scam link
Disposal	Battery recycler	The trash bin
New gear	Register it	Toss the papers

A genuine recall never asks for a fee or your bank details.



Need a Real Person?

You do not have to remember all of it.
You just have to remember you can call.
Friendly, in-home tech help -- I come to you.

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Bill@BillsHomeTech.com · Mon–Sat 9:00 AM – 7:30 PM

— Bill

Prefer help without a visit?

Bill can screen-share and fix many things remotely — a flat \$49, free for Support Plan members.



A Note From Bill

A quick note from Bill.

I write these guides to make home tech a little less frustrating, and I do my best to keep every step accurate and up to date. Still, every home, device, and setup is a bit different, so I can't promise a guide will match yours exactly or fix your particular problem. These guides are for general information only — they're not professional, legal, or financial advice, and they don't replace your device's own manual or the manufacturer's instructions. Please go slow, use your own good judgment, and use everything here at your own risk. If a step involves electrical wiring, a gas appliance, a water heater, plumbing, or climbing a ladder — or if anything just doesn't feel safe — please stop and call a licensed professional (or give me a call at 330-200-8042). Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that comes from using these guides. Thanks for reading, and stay safe out there.

— *Bill*



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