

Charging Your Wheelchair Batteries

Charging your wheelchair battery correctly will help it last longer — and help your wheelchair be ready to go when you need it.

How often should I charge my batteries?

- **If you use your wheel chair every day:**
Charge every day. If you use your wheelchair inside your home, outside your home, or both, charge every day.
- **If you use your wheelchair sometimes, but not every day:** Charge before and after you use your wheelchair.

How do I charge my batteries correctly?

- **Use the right charger.**
 - Use the manufacturer's automatic charger for all routine charging.
 - Never use a car- or wet-type charge on gel or sealed batteries. They'll quickly ruin your battery.
- **Charge the right amount.**
 - The ideal recharge point is about half way (50%) on a scooter or wheelchair gauge.
 - Never run your batteries completely flat. If the battery loses too much power, it could reach a point where it won't charge again.
 - Don't 'top off' batteries by charging too often.
 - Don't leave the battery plugged in past the full charge point for a long period of time. This will shorten the life of the battery.
- **Charge in a dry place where air can move freely.**
Never cover the charger or put it in a place where air cannot move freely. The charger could get too hot and could ruin itself — or start a fire.



- **Use a grounded outlet.**
A grounded outlet has 3 holes. Plugging the charger into an outlet that's not grounded will shorten the life of the charger and will not protect it from spikes in power.



A grounded outlet has 3 holes

My battery won't charge — What do I do?

If a battery won't charge, it's usually because the battery went too long without being charged. When this happens, the charge falls below the "zero" point and can't turn on to recharge. The chair will need to be brought in and have the battery replaced.

Call Intermountain Homecare & Hospice if you have problems charging your battery.

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