

## **Simple Tips for Charging Batteries**

1. Always use the charger supplied with your wheelchair, and make sure it is set to the proper battery type.
2. If you need to store your wheelchair for a long period of time, it is best to charge your batteries at least every 2 weeks.
3. New batteries require conditioning. For the first 6 to 10 charge/discharge cycles, do not heavily discharge the batteries.
4. Do not use automotive battery chargers.
5. Do not excessively discharge the batteries.
6. Do not top off with frequent charges, as this is hard on the batteries.

***Be good to your batteries!***

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***Battery Maintenance  
for your Motorized  
Wheelchair***

**Helpful Hints for Consumers**

**Wheelchair Services**

## **The Batteries**

### **CAUTION!**

- **Always wear eye protection.**
- **Protect your clothing.**
- **Recharge batteries in a well-ventilated area.**
- **Make sure that any person performing battery maintenance on your chair has read this information.**
- **Use a solution of 1 tbsp baking soda in 1 cup of water to neutralize any battery acid spills. Do not let this solution enter the cells.**
- **Do not allow metal objects to come in contact with the battery terminals. The spark could cause an explosion, damage electronics or cause a shock.**
- **Do not smoke while handling or recharging your batteries.**

**Battery failure** is a common reason for motorized wheelchairs to stop working or act erratically. Taking proper care of them is very important. Wheelchair batteries are different from car batteries. A wheelchair battery (called deepcycle) is charged once a day and supplies large amounts of electricity while it is running. The life of a battery depends on how heavily it is used. Batteries can last up to 2 years when properly maintained.

Under normal every day use, most people need to charge their batteries every night. If the wheelchair is used only occasionally, the batteries need to be charged at least every 2 weeks and should be charged after each day of use.

There are two types of wheelchair batteries: wet cell and sealed. Make sure your charger is set to the proper battery type. The Manitoba Community Wheelchair Program (MCWP) supplies Deep Cycle Sealed batteries.

## **Deep Cycle Sealed batteries**

Sealed batteries do not need water and, therefore, require no maintenance other than keeping the terminals free of corrosion.

## **Batteries and the weather**

Extensive exposure to cold temperatures will severely reduce the capacity of your batteries and may even damage them. The MCWP requires all power wheelchairs to be stored in a heated, insulated and secure area.