

Battery Care Guide

How to Get the Best Performance and Longest Life from Your Mobility Scooter or Powerchair Batteries

Battery Care Guide

Your batteries are one of the most important components of your mobility scooter or powerchair. Looking after them properly can improve reliability, maximise performance and significantly extend their lifespan.

Unfortunately, many batteries fail long before they should because of incorrect charging, long periods without use or poor storage conditions.

At First Choice Mobility, one of the most common service issues we see isn't a fault with the scooter or powerchair itself—it's simply a battery that hasn't been cared for correctly.

This guide explains how to get the best from your batteries and avoid the most common causes of premature failure.

Quick Summary

To help maximise battery life:

- Charge your batteries after every use.
 - Avoid leaving batteries completely flat.
 - Use the correct charger.
 - Store your equipment in a dry, frost-free environment.
 - Charge regularly even if the equipment isn't being used.
 - Arrange battery checks if performance begins to decline.
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Contents

1. Understanding mobility batteries
2. Lithium vs lead-acid batteries
3. Charging correctly
4. Storing your equipment

5. Common battery mistakes
 6. When should batteries be replaced?
 7. Frequently asked questions
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Understanding Mobility Batteries

Most mobility scooters and powerchairs use one of two battery types:

- Sealed Lead Acid (SLA/AGM or Gel)
- Lithium-ion

Both are reliable when cared for properly, but they have different charging characteristics and expected lifespans.

Lithium vs Lead-Acid Batteries

Feature	Lithium	Lead-Acid
Weight	Much lighter	Heavier
Charging Time	Faster	Slower
Expected Lifespan	Generally longer	Shorter
Maintenance	Low	Low
Best For	Frequent users and travel	Everyday value

Both battery types can provide excellent performance when maintained correctly.

First Choice Mobility Insight

Many customers assume a battery has failed because the scooter is slowing down.

In reality, it's often the result of batteries that haven't been charged regularly enough, particularly during the winter months.

Charging Your Batteries Correctly

One of the simplest ways to extend battery life is to develop a regular charging routine.

We recommend:

- Charging after every outing.
- Using the charger supplied by the manufacturer.
- Allowing the charging cycle to complete.
- Disconnecting the charger once charging has finished if recommended by the manufacturer.

Avoid waiting until the batteries are completely flat before charging.

Did You Know?

Even if you've only travelled a short distance, it's usually good practice to recharge your batteries afterwards so they're ready for your next journey.

Storing Your Mobility Equipment

If you won't be using your mobility scooter or powerchair for several weeks, proper storage is essential.

Store it:

- Indoors where possible.
- In a dry environment.
- Away from extreme heat or frost.
- With the batteries partially or fully charged as recommended by the manufacturer.

For longer periods of storage, recharge the batteries regularly to prevent deep discharge.

Common Battery Mistakes

Avoid these common errors:

- Leaving batteries flat for long periods.
- Using the wrong charger.
- Storing equipment in freezing temperatures.
- Ignoring warning signs such as reduced range.
- Assuming all chargers are interchangeable.

These simple mistakes can significantly reduce battery life.

Myth vs Fact

Myth

You should completely discharge your batteries before charging them.

Fact

Modern mobility batteries generally perform best when charged regularly. Frequently allowing batteries to become completely flat can shorten their lifespan.

Signs Your Batteries May Need Replacing

Over time, all rechargeable batteries lose capacity.

Common signs include:

- Reduced travel range.
- Longer charging times.
- Difficulty climbing hills.
- Slower acceleration.
- Battery gauge dropping quickly.
- The charger indicates a fault.

If you notice any of these symptoms, it's worth arranging a battery test before replacing other parts unnecessarily.

Winter Battery Care

Cold weather can temporarily reduce battery performance.

During winter:

- Charge batteries after every use.
- Avoid storing equipment outside overnight.
- Keep batteries fully charged.
- Allow batteries to warm naturally before use if stored in a cold garage.

Remember that reduced range during very cold weather is often normal and may improve as temperatures rise.

Before You Buy New Batteries

Before ordering replacements, check:

- ✓ Battery voltage.
- ✓ Amp-hour (Ah) rating.
- ✓ Physical dimensions.
- ✓ Terminal type.
- ✓ Manufacturer recommendations.

Choosing the wrong battery can affect performance and may not fit correctly.

Questions We're Often Asked

How long should mobility scooter batteries last?

This depends on battery type, usage and maintenance. With good care, many batteries provide several years of reliable service.

Can I leave my charger connected all the time?

Some modern chargers automatically switch to a maintenance mode once charging is complete, but always follow the recommendations in your owner's manual.

Why has my scooter suddenly lost range?

The cause may be ageing batteries, cold weather, tyre pressures or a mechanical issue. A battery health check is often the best place to start.

Can I replace just one battery?

Where two batteries are fitted, it's generally recommended to replace them as a matched pair unless advised otherwise by the manufacturer.

Further Reading

The following resources provide useful information about batteries and mobility equipment.

NHS – Staying Active

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/>

GOV.UK – VAT Relief

If you're replacing batteries as part of eligible mobility equipment, you may wish to understand the current VAT guidance.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/reliefs-from-vat-for-disabled-and-older-people-notice-7017>

Continue Reading in the First Choice Mobility Advice Centre

You may also find these guides helpful:

- [How to Choose the Right Mobility Scooter](#)
 - [How to Choose the Right Powerchair](#)
 - [Airline Approved Mobility Scooters & Powerchairs](#)
 - [Funding a Mobility Scooter or Powerchair](#)
 - [VAT Relief Explained](#)
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Related Products

Explore our range of:

- [Mobility Scooter Batteries](#)
- [Powerchair Batteries](#)
- [Lithium Batteries](#)
- [Battery Chargers](#)
- [Battery Chargers for Mobility Scooters](#)
- [Battery Carry Bags](#)
- [Battery Testers](#)
- [Battery Accessories](#)

Our Advice

Battery care doesn't need to be complicated.

A simple routine of regular charging, correct storage and using the right charger can significantly extend battery life and help keep your mobility equipment reliable for years to come.

If you're unsure whether your batteries are performing as they should, we're always happy to offer advice and help you identify the correct replacements if required.

Need More Help?

Whether you need replacement batteries, a compatible charger or advice about charging routines, our experienced team is here to help.

We'll help you identify the correct batteries for your mobility scooter or powerchair and answer any questions you may have.

Freedom, with Confidence

At First Choice Mobility, we understand how important reliable batteries are to your independence.

Our aim is to provide practical advice, quality replacement batteries and expert support to help keep you moving with confidence.

Download This Guide

Download a printable PDF version of this guide to keep with your mobility scooter or powerchair handbook for future reference.

Information You Can Trust

This guide has been reviewed by the First Choice Mobility team and is intended as general guidance. Always follow the charging and maintenance instructions provided by your equipment manufacturer. If you notice a sudden reduction in performance or suspect a battery fault, seek professional advice before replacing components.