WORK SAFELY EVERY DAY

SAFETY TALK

How to Properly Care for and Use Battery-Powered Tools

The convenience of battery-powered tools has all but made cord-and-plug tools obsolete. Corded tools still have their pros: they cost less, are still readily available at a lower cost and have more power and durability. However, they are less safe because they require extension cord use. Additionally, GFCI use is required when operating these types of tools, but few of us use this necessary safety protection at home.



The temperature threshold for most rechargeable batteries is -4°F to 125°F

Battery-powered tools provide safety from shock, they're portable and are easier to store than corded tools. Taking care of your battery-powered tools will help extend the life of the tool as well as the batteries.

Be sure to use only tools, batteries and chargers from the same manufacturer. These components are designed and tested to work together to provide safety and reliability. Over the past 10-15 years battery-powered tools have evolved in complexity and now have electronics that 'talk' to each other during use. Without the ability to communicate, the tool can't perform properly and the battery may overheat.

It's also important to store your batteries where they won't be exposed to water or liquids, or come into contact with metal objects such as keys, coins, screws or nails, as this can cause fires. Lithium-ion batteries are not designed to be used or stored in temperature extremes — temperatures over 175°F can cause permanent damage to the battery. The inside of a metal, uninsulated toolbox in the sunlight can reach that level in a few hours. The temperature threshold for most rechargeable batteries is -4°F to 125°F. The life cycle of a lithium-ion battery is typically 300-500 cycles. After each use, clean your tools to prevent dust and debris buildup and store them in a dry, clean area to prevent rust and damage.

Battery Inspection, Storage, and Disposal

Inspect batteries before use for signs of damage. Do not use a battery that has been damaged. Never modify, disassemble or tamper with a battery, as the result can be unpredictable and dangerous.

Do not dispose of batteries by tossing them in the garbage, instead take them to a battery recycling center.

Take Charge of Your Battery (Power Tool Institute)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g7GKtPx5C4U

Montana LTAP offers monthly safety webinars for anyone to attend for free.

Participate in Live or recorded webinars.
Electrical and Battery Safety
https://vimeo.com/1184976250

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Safety Talk Sign-In Sheet

How to Properly Care for and Use Battery-Powered Tools

Agency: _____

Crew: _____

Supervisor/Talk Leader: _____

Date: _____

Print Name	Signature
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