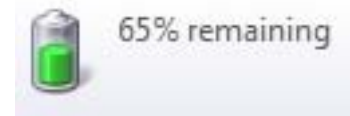



Help Your Laptop Battery Last Longer



Most of us never take the battery out of our laptop and usually have the laptop plugged into the AC adapter. Seems reasonable and logical. So much for human logic as you will soon see.

So you are probably thinking – that should give me 600 to 800 days of recharging - why worry?





Fully charged (100%)

You will shorten the effective life of your laptop battery - **by keeping the battery in the laptop 24/**

The problem is your battery may be recharging several times each day if you keep the laptop plugged into its AC adapter day and night.

Why?

The laptop constantly monitors the status of the battery. It recharges the battery each time the battery level drops below a certain level and that is good. The battery is always close to a full charge when you need it.

The average laptop battery lasts about a year or longer if you have the AC adaptor plugged into the computer most of the time.

Bottom Line

Take the battery out of the laptop unless you need to run from battery. This will save on the life of the laptop battery.

Here's what happens to your battery

Most new laptops come with a Lithium Ion battery and that's good. A normal battery has a lifetime of about 600 – 800 discharge / charge cycles. Each time the battery charges it has one less charge cycle left.

The problem is that heat causes a battery to lose its charge. Most laptops get warm during use thereby causing the battery to drain and then be automatically recharged more often. Each time the battery is recharged it holds a little less of the charge and charges a little more often.

So this becomes a cumulative cycle. Each time the battery is recharged it shortens the life of the battery. The battery holds a little less of the charge. This minor battery deterioration accelerates just a little with each charge. So the life of the battery shortens in a cumulative manner.



You can extend the life of your laptop battery by removing the battery when using the AC adaptor.

Most of us learn these facts after it's too late when we actually look in the laptop manual and see that they tell us NOT to keep the battery in the laptop.

I'll bet you are mumbling out loud, like I did when I said, "Then what's the use of having a laptop?" The tremor in our mind intensified when we start pricing a replacement battery (\$100 or more) and feel the power of the old adage "Insult added to injury!"

Another little known fact

Do not let the charge in the battery go all the way down before recharging. This was a good practice for the older Nickel Cadmium battery but not the new Lithium Ion battery. One battery manufacturer recommends that you plug the AC adaptor in when the battery gets down to about 20%. Apparently letting the battery discharge almost to 0% is not good for the new Lithium Ion battery.



Screen Capture From HP Notebook Battery Monitor



Another of Marlo's Mine Fields
Keep the battery out unless you need battery power.

See the next page for a few battery saving tips

A Few Battery Saving Tips

1. Try to keep the battery cool. The charge will last longer. Be reasonable – don't put the battery in the refrigerator or freezer – that could damage it.
2. Don't keep the laptop plugged in to the AC adapter with the battery in the laptop.. Remove the battery and store it in a cool, dry place when you do not need battery power.
3. Don't recharge the battery if you aren't going to use it for a long time.
4. Getting an extra battery you don't use often is not a good option. The battery will lose its ability to recharge over time even if it's not being used.
5. A "Full" charge for a Lithium Ion battery takes about 180 minutes.
6. Charging your laptop battery using your car battery is not the best way to recharge since power fluctuations can occur. Use a wall outlet to recharge.
7. If you have a newer laptop, periodically calibrate the battery. Check your manual for instructions.



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