



rehabilitation, hospital & home care equipment

## CARE OF LIFTER BATTERIES AND CHARGERS

Users of electrically powered lifting equipment for disabled and frail patients are often unsure of how to take care of batteries and battery chargers.

Our recommendations are:

1. Battery chargers should be left plugged in to a power socket and power turned **ON at all times**. Turning the charger on and off "shocks" the internal electronics and can shorten the life of the charger.
2. When removing a battery from the charger when it is fully re-charged do not turn the charger off. (Leave the charger **ON at all times**).
3. When lifter is not in use remove the battery and place on the charger. These batteries are designed to be topped up often rather than run down fully then re-charged. The battery can stay on the charger for long periods even when fully charged. As always, even if the battery is fully charged do not turn the charger off. The charger will not use any electricity if the battery is fully charged but left on a charger which is turned ON.
4. In Nursing Homes at each **change of shift** take batteries off equipment used during the shift. Swap these batteries with the batteries on the charger. Batteries taken off the charger are now ready for use by the shift about to start. (This system requires a few spare batteries. Coloured stickers can identify which batteries are used by the shift).

Some batteries are charged on the lifter using a plug in connector. (eg, Sunlift lifter). Charge these batteries **at all times when not in use**. Do not turn the charger connector off until the lifter is required for use. (Best time to re-charge is over night).

*(Linak Australia, the major supplier of batteries and chargers for patient lifting equipment in Australia, was consulted and fully supports these recommendations).*

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