

BATTERY CARE: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ...

Ninety per cent of breakdowns or down time on battery powered access machines can be attributed to lack of maintenance of the battery pack. This can be due to not checking the battery electrolyte or not giving the battery pack a full and proper charge.

Follow the guidelines below and your hire machine will give you optimum productivity.

- When requesting an electric machine, ask what size transformer you will need to be compatible with your site's power supply and the requirements of the machine.

Charging the machine

- Always charge the machine in a well ventilated area that is free from any possible naked flames and any well-used walkways. Do not smoke when charging or checking a battery.
- Keep any charging leads as short as possible; this will aid both charging and avoid any possible trip hazard.
- Make sure that any lead – be it 110 volt or 240 volt – has been tested and is in good condition.
- Check that plugs are in good condition and fit correctly.
- When connecting the charging lead, make sure that it is in fact connected to the charger and not to the machine's power-to-platform plug.
- Check the battery charger's indicator to ensure it is charging. This indicator could be in the form of LED lights or an amp meter showing the input.



Battery inspection

- Always wear correct personal protection equipment – with eye protection and gloves being the minimum.
- Batteries must be topped up with clean distilled water.
- Clean the top of the battery before removing the vent caps.
- When checking the battery electrolyte, remove the vent caps one at a time and look down into the cell – the electrolyte should cover the plates by no more than 10mm.
- Check all connecting leads on batteries to making sure they are both clean and tight.

Dos and Don'ts

- Never check a battery's level when it is on charge or has just come off charge. This is because while charging or when just disconnected for charging, the battery will be giving off hydrogen gases which are highly inflammable.
- Do not top up a cell if the level is above the plates until the battery has been charged and allowed to rest for 15 minutes.
- If any battery acid comes into contact with skin it must be washed off immediately with clean water.
- If any battery acid should come in to contact with eyes wash out with clean water as soon as possible and seek medical advice immediately.
- If the machine is to be on site for some time it is advisable to have an eye wash station close by.

How to get the most out of a battery powered machine

- Before starting the machine, check if it is fully charged.
- Make sure the charging lead has been removed from the machine and isolated from the power supply.
- Plan your work so as to get the most out of the charge time you have.
- If possible place the machine back on charge when not it use throughout the day.
- Avoid overloading the machine and driving it great distances.
- Try and keep work cycles short with rest periods in between.

For more information or advice, please contact AFI-Uplift.

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