

How to preserve batteries when not in use

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1. Turn off gadgets and appliances when not in use. If your gadgets don't have a battery save feature, turn them off when you are not using them to avoid draining them quickly. Doing this reduces the amount of power your gadgets or other battery-powered electronic devices use.
2. Keep batteries cool. Storing batteries in a cool place can conserve their shelf life. This is especially important if you live in a warm climate. Exposing batteries to heat or warm temperature increases their chemical activity, which results in a dramatic decrease of battery life. Although some batteries, for example, alkaline batteries, are known to self-discharge at generally slower rates, the shelf life of an NiMH battery could be considerably extended with cool storage.
3. Be mindful when to fully charge and discharge your batteries. Not all battery-powered gadgets such as cellular phones need to be fully charged and discharged. For instance, lithium batteries need to be charged often; otherwise, allowing them to drain will damage their storage capacity. Prolonging charging and shallow discharging of lithium-based batteries is better.
4. Remove or avoid using unnecessary features. Applications in your gadgets that run at the same time slowly burn out the CPU, which can contribute to your battery's death. Remove or turn off unused or unnecessary programs and applications if possible. While traveling, or whenever there is a power outage in your area, prolong your battery's life by avoiding the use of unnecessary applications and features. When using smartphones or tablets for instance, consider turning off the Bluetooth, and refrain from streaming videos or playing games.
5. Use the correct battery charger. Avoid the habit of borrowing chargers that are not designated for your batteries, just because they fit into your gadgets' ports. Some chargers are designed for fast charging, while others for slow charging. Plugging in the wrong charger for your battery may result in over-charging or discharging, which can excessively heat and burn out your battery. Proper usage and care prolongs battery life.

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