

# Lead acid forklift battery charging

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Electric forklifts are becoming increasingly popular due to their countless advantages and environmental factors. There are two types of electric forklifts, the new lithium powered technology and the traditional lead acid forklifts. Both battery types need to be charged in a specific way to get the best use out of them, so following a set charging procedure is advised to help you keep on top of your battery's health.

Below, we will outline the best charging procedures and steps to correctly charge your forklift battery, helping you maintain your batteries health and get the most out of its lifespan.

You can either charge lead acid batteries directly from the forklift, or if the forklift is working a double shift, you can remove and replace them. Handling lead acid batteries can be dangerous, putting you at risk of burns from the battery acid and exposure to toxic fumes. You should have completed training and follow a proper procedure to ensure safety of yourself and the battery.

You must make sure your forklift is properly parked and turned off, ensuring the parking brake is on. Once parked, raise the seat so you have access to the forklift battery underneath. Every site that uses an electric forklift should have a safe charging station. Your dedicated forklift charging area requires several safety features, such as:

Make sure you are wearing appropriate PPE, such as face shields, safety glasses, gloves and an apron. This will help to protect you against acid splashes or burns from the lead acid battery. Remove any metal jewellery to lower the risk of electrocution.

Select a charger that matches the output voltage and amp hours (ah) capacity of the forklift battery - you will find this information on the data tag.

Ensure the charging cables are in good condition with no signs of burning, damage or cracks. If you find any damage or loose cables to the battery, do not proceed and get this repaired before using.

Disconnect the battery cable from the forklift. If you need to remove the battery from the forklift, do not lift it manually and use a pallet truck or forklift - make sure it is secure before transporting.

Connect the charger to the battery. Ensure you do not plug the charger into the forklift terminal as this could damage both the forklift and charger. Do not charge the forklift battery if it is too hot or too cold. Check to ensure the battery indicates that its charging is in progress.

To get the most out of your charge, follow the "8-8-8" rule, also known as the conventional charging method.



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Once the charge is complete, you need to take it off charge. Ensure that you always turn off the charger before unplugging the charging cable. Plug the battery cable back into the forklift.

When the battery has charged and cooled down, you can check the water levels by removing the caps. Add the appropriate amount of water to each cell - ensuring you don't over or underwater the battery. Top tip: Use a single point watering system to save time. To prevent damage, don't water the battery before charging and make sure you keep a log of every time you water the battery.

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