

Best Battery Practices for your Laptop

Did you know there is a right and wrong way to treat the battery in your laptop? It's actually a bit more complicated than "plug and play"!

Many people who use a laptop actually leave it plugged in full-time in one location. This can be detrimental to the life of your battery, and can cause it to swell over time, like these:



To protect the life of your battery, and the overall health of your computer (as a swollen battery can actually permanently damage your laptop), use the following tips:

- 1) **Unplug regularly, allowing the battery to discharge some of its charge.** A simple solution to this is a basic wall timer, like for lamps. Program the charger to turn off once or twice a day so that the battery can discharge naturally, like overnight, or for an hour during the day while you are regularly using the laptop.
- 2) **Keep your laptop clean.** A dirty laptop has to work harder to stay cool, so periodically turn your laptop all the way off, turn it over, and blow out its exhaust vents to clean it out.
- 3) **Put the computer to sleep, or turn it off, when not in use.** Give the computer a chance to take a break, and save some electricity while you're at it!
- 4) **Check the power-saver options on your device.** Windows and Mac both offer options to increase the efficiency of your battery. Be sure to check and optimize those settings!