

Batteries

It never dawned on me how many people read my articles each week until I took a break for a few months and suddenly I had folks asking when my next article was coming out. Well, thanks to all of the encouragement from my readers I have decided to start writing my computer/tech article again. I still need your help, I need to know what interests you, what you want to learn about, what problems your computer is going through. I need topics, please e-mail any topic ideas to me at computerdepotonline@att.net.

I get many questions each month about the battery life and the types of batteries that are shipped in the laptops I sell. Honestly even I have been finding that I get confused on this subject so I decided to do some research and share it with you.

First, there are many different kinds of batteries. Older laptops primarily used Nickel Cadmium (NiCd) batteries. These batteries had a couple of drawbacks. They weren't very powerful and if not conditioned properly the battery life could be cut short. The biggest problem with this battery is that if you plug the charger in before the battery is completely discharged then the battery will begin to develop a memory. If the battery is not allowed to completely discharge then the recharge cycle will be stunted and the batteries life will begin to shorten.

Newer laptops have Nickel Metal Hydride (NiMh) or Lithium Ion batteries. These two types of batteries do not suffer from the same memory issues that the NiCd batteries contain. However, all rechargeable batteries are in danger of a shortened battery life primarily caused by leaving the electronic device plugged into the wall outlet continuously. To prolong the battery life of any device it is wise to immediately disconnect the device from the wall outlet as soon as it is fully charged.

What about the round rechargeable batteries you can purchase for digital camera, toys, MP3 players, and other electronic devices. The same principles hold true for those as they do for the laptop batteries. In addition, the user should beware that they match the correct charger to the correct battery. Lithium Ion and NiMh chargers monitor the voltage and temperature of the batteries to determine when the batteries are charged. Once they reach capacity the chargers will go into a trickle charge mode to keep the batteries topped off. Cheaper NiCd chargers generally work on a timer function and can easily damage the batteries by over charging them.

One last fact users should keep in mind is that batteries are never 100% charged when the charger indicates a full charge when using a "quick" charger. Quick chargers claim to charge batteries in as a little as 15 minutes. However tests show that they will only be 80% charged. In order to achieve a full charge you must let the batteries charge for a couple more hours.

If you need computer or network help then I invite you to visit your local computer professionals at Computer Depot. We offer free diagnostic service and fast 24-hour repair service. I personally guarantee you will be happy with our service. Call 947-0749 or visit our website at www.ComputerDepotOnline.com to find out more information.