

# How to care for your laptop's battery:

A laptop's battery can make the difference between using a laptop to its potential or as a paperweight. With the right practices, you can improve the amount of time you get to use your very important technology tool.

**Fun fact:** Save cycles, save your battery.

All laptop batteries are built to handle a certain number of usage cycles, usually somewhere around 500, and often more. Each cycle of use decreases the battery's capacity, so the less you drain it, the longer it will last - What does this mean?

This means you will want to visit the Power Settings corner of your laptop. Many computers offer the ability to switch to an "eco mode" that automatically adjust the way power is used (such as dimming your screen brightness or making sure hibernation mode is turned on) to conserve battery energy.

The settings can be found on the E5450 under

Start -> control panel -> [Hardware and Sound](#) -> [Power Options](#)

There are two standard options available (along with a high performance we should not select)

Balanced – Default. And Power Save. We do not recommend that you change these settings.

Check your apps that are steadily eating into your battery energy. To find out what is running, you can look at your System Tray, your Task Manager, and your Processes tab to see which of those apps are running and turn off the ones that are not needed.

## Keeping your battery in the zone

Modern lithium-ion batteries don't "forget" their full charge capacity and start charging at lower and lower levels like older batteries did. You no longer need to totally discharge a battery and let it die to somehow reboot it – this is a dangerous practice that's very hard on your battery.

A better approach is let your battery energy grow low (aim for around 5 percent) and then fully recharge it, all in one go. This maintenance helps calibrate the battery gauge. Unplug once it is fully charged.

So the best thing you can do for your battery is charge when it reaches 40 percent, and unplug it when it goes past 80 percent.

## Environmental concerns: It's all about Temperature

Today's lithium-ion batteries are durable, but they can only take so much heat. *Anything above 95 degrees Fahrenheit* can damage your laptop battery permanently.

Yes, this means on hot or cold days do not leave your laptop sitting in a car, sunporch or anyplace that temperatures may reach above 90 or below 40.

Store your laptop indoors and avoid direct sunlight. Although cold temperatures are recommended for storing laptop batteries, too much cold can kill your battery permanently.

Keep the laptop off your actual lap. Placing a laptop on your lap often times heats it up and blocks air vents.

If you need help with this, please contact Technology Help by putting in a ticket.