

RECHARGE Scheme™

Fact Sheet

Batteries and Chargers

Tips and advice proudly brought to you by East Gippsland Shire Council and RECHARGE Scheme Australia Limited



How long does it take to recharge a battery?

Recharge times can vary, depending on the state of batteries before the charging process, the size of batteries and the size or voltage of the charger.

Newer batteries will take longer to charge as they have more capacity. Older batteries you will find, over time, may harden in places (sulfate), which lessens the capacity and therefore will not hold their charge for as long.

Mobility devices must be recharged after every use. Use the following rule of thumb: for every hour's use, the mobility vehicle should be on charge for double the time.

Do all mobility devices have an on-board battery charger?

Mobility devices are available with either an on-board charger or off-board charger.

If you have an off-board charger, you need to bring it with you if you want to utilise the RECHARGE Scheme™ service. Do not borrow a battery charger if its not the same model as yours. Using a charger

that isn't compatible may do serious damage to a mobility device.

If I were to charge my battery at a RECHARGE Point™ location for an hour, what distance would I be able to travel?

To work out what distance you can travel if you use a RECHARGE Point™ location for an hour, ask yourself these questions:

1) At what level were my batteries when I started out for the day? (e.g. full (green), medium (yellow) or low (red))

If it was at near full capacity when you left your destination you should still have between 20-30km of available travel power. If your battery was at a medium level you can expect to be able to travel between 10-15km. If your battery level was near low, you should not attempt to travel more than 10km without recharging first. Keep in mind that the lower power you battery has, the longer it will take to charge to an optimum level to ensure your journey can be completed safely.

2) After having my mobility device on charge for an hour, has my battery gauge reached midway?

As long as your battery gauge indicates there is half battery capacity and you are within 10-15km distance from your destination you will safely finish your journey.

It is difficult to ascertain what distance can be travelled exactly, as there are many factors. The condition of the batteries, size and the load on the mobility device, as well as the terrain you are travelling on are some examples of what you will need to consider.

Always put your mobility device on charge the night before use to ensure that your batteries are full before setting out for the day.

What distance can I travel with one full battery charge?

Approximately 20-30 kilometres.

What range can I get per battery charge?

The grid below is a guide to work out the range per battery charge on newer batteries for your mobility device. Please note that if batteries are older or worn the range will vary and will need to be adjusted accordingly.

Battery size (12v)	Range
12-18amp hour (ah)	10-16km
21 ah	Up to 20km
30-35ah	20-30km
40-55ah	Up to 40km
70+ah	Up to 50km

Can a battery be topped up if it is already charged to three quarters of its capacity?

Yes, you can top up the charge at any time, as long as the current level is below its full capacity. An added safety feature of the new batteries is that many are designed so that you cannot overcharge your batteries. These chargers will switch off when the battery has reached full capacity and then go on trickle charge to top up when needed. This minimises the potential for damage experienced by some owners of older style or reconditioned electric scooters (over five years of age) which may not incorporate an automatically cut-off feature for fully-charged batteries.

What is the life span of a battery?

The life span can vary depending on usage, battery type, age, care and maintenance etc. It is very important to ensure you recharge your battery frequently. Allowing your battery to completely discharge may cause damage to the battery and/or the mobility device's electrical programmer. Charge your battery every 2 weeks at minimum, even if you are not using your mobility device. This is most important during the winter months, when you may not be using your mobility device as much.

For more information about the RECHARGE Scheme services please contact

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Find The official register of RECHARGE Point™ locations by visiting:
rechargescheme.org.au

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