(Approx. 358 words)

Make Your Batteries Last Longer

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When the battery was first invented, no one could imagine that we’d rely so heavily on them in the 21st century.

Wikipedia.org notes, “Experimentation with lithium batteries began in 1912 under American physical chemist Gilbert N. Lewis, but commercial lithium batteries did not come to market until the 1970s in the form of the lithium-ion battery.”

Batteries operate our cell phones, tablets, laptops, landline phones, flashlights, wireless mice, trackballs and some trackpads, and many more items. They even power our EV (electric) cars. Batteries are everywhere.

But as all of us know–batteries die. They need to be continually charged. There are steps you can take to extend your batteries’ lives. The Cliff Notes version is here: keep them away from heat. Don’t leave them in a hot car. Don’t leave them sitting in the sun or lying in front of a heat register in your home in the winter.

The How-to-Geek website explains: “You can’t fully stop batteries from discharging, but you can do one simple thing across all battery types to lower the discharge rate:

keep them cool.”

Don’t put your devices in the freezer. How to Geek says, this causes condensation that can wreck the electronics as you constantly take the devices in and out of the freezer.

On the other hand, keep battery–powered devices in a cool spot. “You might consider charging and storing your power tool batteries in your cool basement instead of leaving them in your sweltering detached garage. You’ll also want to keep electronics out of hot cars and store them in the coolest part of your home if they aren’t in use for a while,” adds How to Geek.

“If your batteries are discharging rapidly enough that you practically need to leave them on the charger to ensure they are ready to use when you need them, then it’s time to replace them. Batteries degrade over time, even with the best care, and if a battery is no longer properly holding a charge, it should be recycled and replaced.” writes the website.