



Safety Tip of the Week

Battery Charging Safety

Because batteries contain chemicals, chemical reaction by-products, and an electrical current, they can pose a hazard to workers if not handled properly. Workers that operate, maintain, and recharge batteries should use caution.



Battery Charging Dos:

- Wear gloves and suitable eye protection—preferably goggles or a visor;
- Wear a plastic apron and suitable boots when handling battery chemicals such as sulphuric acid or potassium hydroxide;
- Empty your pockets of any metal objects that could fall onto the battery or bridge across its terminals;
- Keep sources of ignition – such as flames, sparks, electrical equipment, hot objects, and mobile phones – well away from batteries that are being charged, have recently been charged, or are being moved;
- Use suitable single-ended tools with insulated handles;
- Fit temporary plastic covers over the battery terminals;
- Charge batteries in a dedicated, well-ventilated area;
- Share the load with a workmate when lifting batteries – they can be very heavy;
- Use insulated lifting equipment and check there are no tools, cables, or other clutter you could trip on; and
- Wash your hands thoroughly after working with batteries, especially before eating, smoking or going to the toilet.

DON'T BE HASTY WHEN IT COMES TO SAFETY!!