



Golf carts are involved in a number of accidents each year that result in personal injury, death, fires and property damage. To help prevent such accidents, all those who own, operate and care for golf carts should read and follow these procedures:

Battery-run golf carts are energy efficient but you must charge the batteries after each day's use. The typical range on these carts is 30 miles. Safely charging a golf cart battery isn't difficult, even if you aren't mechanically inclined and proper battery maintenance is critical for "flooded" (liquid filled) batteries. For example, an overheated lead-acid battery can actually explode.

CHARGING GOLF CART BATTERIES

- First and foremost, follow the manufacturer's instructions and heed all safety tips and warnings.
- Always turn off the golf cart ignition key and put it in neutral before starting the battery charge.
- Use only a UL Listed Industrial Battery Charger that is properly matched to the golf cart as per the manufacturer's specifications.
- The electrical outlet that the golf cart charger is plugged into should be:
 - A grounded outlet on a line with the appropriate size circuit breaker for the battery charger...
 - If possible be a Ground Fault Interruption (GFI) receptacle or have Surge Protection.
- When using an extension cord to attach the charger to an electrical outlet, please be aware of the following:
 - An extension cord should never be used as a substitute for permanent wiring and should not be fastened to a building or structure.
 - Do not plug an extension cord and/or the charger into an ungrounded electrical outlet.
 - Do not put two extension cords together to make a longer one. Cords that are either connected together or too long will reduce operating voltage and operating efficiency and may cause damage to the charger.
 -

Note: The Consumer Products Safety Commission estimates that about 3,300 residential fires originate in extension cords each year, killing 50 people and injuring about 270 others. The most frequent causes of such fires are short circuits, overloading, damage, and/or misuse of extension cords. Extension cords must be treated with care and checked regularly for damage and/or deterioration. Damaged cords present a potential fire and/or shock hazard and should be destroyed and replaced immediately.

- Fully charge the batteries; an 80 percent recharge can be accomplished in 2 hours but the last 20 percent can take 6 or more hours.
- If your battery charger has a manual timer, charge the cart for two to three times longer than you drove it. For an automatic charger, charge overnight for best results.
- Don't leave your golf cart plugged into the charger and the outlet for extended periods of time if it is not being used.

- **If you have an alarm system, install and connect a heat detector to the system in your charging area.**
- **If you do not have an alarm system, install a battery operated smoke detector in the garage. It should be located close to the door leading from the garage to the house so it can be heard.**
- **Have a properly rated fire extinguisher close by the golf cart.**

CARE AND MAINTAINENCE OF GOLF CART BATTERIES

- **Always work in well-ventilated area and do not smoke in the vicinity.**
- **Inspect the batteries for damage, leaks and/or cracks in the outer case. The smell of rotten eggs is a sign of leakage. Charging a damaged or leaking battery can be very dangerous.**
- **Check "flooded" (liquid filled) batteries regularly to make sure there is enough water to cover the leaded plates.**
- **Do not overfill batteries as an overfilled battery can boil over during charging.**
 - **Periodically clean the tops of each battery with a solution of baking soda and water.**
 - **Don't allow foreign matter to get inside the battery. Keep the area around the battery clean and dry.**
 - **Insure that all connections are tight**

GENERAL GOLF CART CARE AND MAINTAINENCE

- **Inspect your golf cart daily before use.**
- **If the golf cart is in need of repairs or maintenance, the vehicle should not be driven**
- **Check tires for proper inflation and check brakes for proper operation.**
- **If you have a battery acid spill, pour baking soda on it before cleaning it up**
- **Wash skin thoroughly with cold water if skin is exposed to battery acid.**

Note: A full safety inspection of a golf cart by a certified professional is recommended at least once every twelve months