

Is Opportunity Charging Right for You?

Successful opportunity charging starts with understanding the requirements and the expectations.

The goal of opportunity charging is for the lift truck to have one battery that stays in the truck while maintaining a state of battery charge of between 30%-80% thru-out the work day.

Not every application is a good candidate for opportunity charging. One and two shift applications are typically the starting point. Three shift applications must allow additional time thru-out the day to return spent amp hours to the battery in order to be successful.

In order to have a successful opportunity charge regimen you have to have the time and floor space to return spent amp-hours back to the battery and have available time and floor space to top off the battery on a daily basis. At least once per week, the battery cells need to be equalized which will require an additional 3 hours after a full charge.

An example of a “good” opportunity charge end user may look like this:

- 1 to 2-shift warehouse operation that has (2) 20 minute breaks and a 30 minute lunch – allowing a minimum of 1 hour of charge time for every 8 hours of clock time.
- Opportunity chargers stationed close to the break area so the driver can plug-into the charger without spending work or personal time doing so. Requires electric drops and floor space.
- The battery/charger specialist will have calculated in advance of the new charge regimen, the correct amp-hour start rate for the opportunity charger to ensure that the available time for recharging thru-out the shift will be adequate to keep the battery between 30%-80% SOC.
- Disciplined drivers who always plug-in at break and lunch time and always hit the stop button prior to disconnecting to return to lunch.
- Disciplined driver who will plug into charge at end of shift to allow the battery to be topped off for the day.
- 8-10 hours once each week to allow full recharge and equalize charge to maintain battery health.

You do not have to be an opportunity charge candidate to reap the benefits of high frequency charging; higher efficiency and cooler battery charge. Our standard high frequency charger algorithm will recharge a 100% discharged battery in 8 hours or less.