

BATTERY LIFE OPTIMIZATION

How to get the most life out of your MSI batteries

Just put the battery in the scale and worry about it when the scale shuts off, right? Good idea if you do not mind replacing the batteries every two to three months. If used properly, MSI's batteries will provide three to six years of reliable service. The following is advice to optimize battery performance for you and your customers.

Rechargeable sealed lead acid (SLA) batteries, like the ones used in MSI products, are well-suited for duty cycles common to electronic scale applications. They do not develop "memory" like Ni-Cad batteries, so they can be used either frequently or sparingly. SLA batteries last longer with frequent recharging when only a small amount of their energy has been used. The cycle life (useful years of battery operation) of SLA batteries depends on the depth of discharge that the battery encounters during each cycle. This relationship is shown in the graph below to illustrate the benefits of early recharging.

Consider a battery that receives 12 hours of daily use, and fully discharges in 40 hours. If you remove the battery each night (30% discharge depth) and immediately place it in the charger, you can expect the battery to last about 1200 cycles (from scale to charger and back to scale). At 250 charge cycles or charges per year, you can expect the battery to last 4.8 years (1200/250). In contrast, a battery that is charged every second day (60% discharge depth) will only be good for approximately 400 cycles and the expected battery life drops to 3.2 years.

When RF hold is enabled and the scale is powered off, the scale will keep the ScaleCore and radio powered so it can use the Rugged Remote to turn power back on. This mode will put some drain on the battery and can eventually lead to a deep discharge if left unattended for long periods. RF hold should always be set to off unless Rugged Remote is being used to turn on the scale.

It is always best practice to remove the battery and place it on the charger when the scale is intended to be put in storage or not used for an extended period of time. The recommendation should be that it is fine to leave the battery in the crane scale overnight and over the weekend, but it should be removed if not used for longer, especially if the storage time is expected to be over a week. The best way to extend the life of the battery is to charge it while it is being stored.

Quick Battery Facts

- Never store a discharged battery; this will destroy the battery's ability to recharge.
- Lower temperatures allow batteries to be stored for longer periods; each 10°F drop in temperature reduces the self-discharge rate by half and doubles the storage time.
- Float mode allows MSI batteries to be left in their MSI chargers indefinitely.
- MSI Crane Scales have built-in circuitry to protect batteries from deep-discharge damage during normal operation. Software is unable to protect batteries when the scale is turned off. The battery must be removed if the scale will be used for extended periods.