

# Charging Lead Acid Batteries



## Better battery handling

Lead acid batteries are widely used in forklifts and other materials handling equipment, and there are a number of hazards that you'll need to be aware of. For starters, battery charging brings together two potentially explosive hazards – hydrogen gas and electrical contacts which may arc, overheat, or become overloaded.



## What to watch out for

- Ideally, batteries should be stored in a room that's designed to be fire resistant – not a basement or area where other flammable gasses/liquids are stored or used.
- The room should be well-ventilated to the outside air, with ventilation areas up high.
- Lime or soda ash should be available to quickly mop up battery acid spills.
- Terminals and switch blocks exposed to the air should be kept clean and the area around the battery chargers kept free of combustible materials such as paper or rags (this is especially important due to the risk of arcing) when terminals are connected and disconnected
- Regular inspection and maintenance is essential – keep an eye on flexible cables and current-limiting resistors.
- Make your battery area a strict NO SMOKING zone.
- Finally SWITCH OFF batter charges when not used – especially during connection and disconnection to batteries to avoid arcing.

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