## Are rechargeable batteries necessary



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Are Rechargeable Batteries Better than Standard Batteries? For the most part, yes. Rechargeable batteries will last you anywhere from two to seven years, depending on the brand you choose and how well you maintain them.

When shopping for rechargeable batteries, there are a couple of key things to remember. First, rechargeables have a shelf life of about 5 years and can be recharged roughly 500-1,000 times ...

Should You Switch to Rechargeable Batteries? If you're wondering whether or not it's worth it for you personally to invest in rechargeable batteries, the short answer is most likely "yes." Rechargeable batteries are almost always going to be cheaper over time.

A rechargeable battery, storage battery, or secondary cell (formally a type of energy accumulator), is a type of electrical battery which can be charged, discharged into a load, and recharged many times, as opposed to a disposable or primary battery, which is supplied fully charged and discarded after use.

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If you're trying to find ways to move away from single-use items for the sake of the planet, don't overlook the humble AA (or AAA, or C, or D) battery.

Rechargeable batteries can cost more than twice as much as single-use batteries, but if you use them properly they"ll save you money in the long run because you can recharge them hundreds of times. Even so, they"re not always the greenest choice. According to a 2016 comparative life cycle assessment published in the International Journal of Life Cycle Assessment, rechargeable batteries are more sustainable than disposables only after you"ve used them at least 50 times.

In terms of manufacturing, both rechargeable and disposable batteries take a toll on the planet. "They both contain toxic chemicals and heavy metals that can pollute the environment," says Shanika Whitehurst, associate director of sustainability at Consumer Reports. The manufacturing process also requires water and energy and releases greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. "But the extended lifespan of rechargeable batteries may offset the toll that making them has on the environment," Whitehurst says, adding that some rechargeable batteries are now being produced using recycled materials, which further reduces their environmental impact.

The most important thing to consider when choosing between disposable and rechargeable batteries is how you're going to use them.

Rechargeable batteries are best suited for something that draws a large amount of power over a short time.

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"You get the economic and environmental benefits of rechargeables a lot faster in high-consumption devices, like the remote control for your kid"s toy car that eats up AA or AAA batteries," Whitehurst says. While children"s toys tend to be some of the biggest battery hogs, the same applies to devices like wireless computer mice.

Single-use disposable batteries, on the other hand, are better for products that have a low energy pull over a prolonged period of time and are replaced infrequently, such as smoke detectors or your TV"s remote control. Single-use batteries are also better for any emergency supplies you may be keeping on hand, like flashlights. "Regular batteries are designed to hold their charge for extended periods so that they"re ready when you need them to be ready," Whitehurst says.

When shopping for rechargeable batteries, there are a couple of key things to remember. First, rechargeables have a shelf life of about 5 years and can be recharged roughly 500-1,000 times, depending on brand and usage. That means you'll probably need to buy fewer of them than you do when purchasing single-use batteries. Second, make sure you buy a charger that can accommodate all of the various sizes you'll be using.

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