

RELi³ON

Lithium For Life

LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES: Separating Myth And Fact





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What is the first thing you did this morning? Checked your phone or alarm for the time? You put on your watch and turned on the morning news with the remote control? After getting dressed, you started up your car and drove to work? What powered all of these actions? Batteries. In fact, the computer or mobile device you're currently reading this on is probably battery powered.

Because batteries are such an integral part of your day, you want the right ones powering your activities. That's where lithium-ion batteries come in. On the forefront of battery power, lithium is an eco-friendly alternative to the short lifespan of lead acid batteries.

So how do lithium batteries differ from the traditional lead acid batteries? The energy density of lithium-ion is typically three times that of the standard lead acid battery. This means there is higher energy density potential. Essentially, it equates to a longer life span and a lighter weight for the same output of power. Lithium-ion batteries are also low maintenance and rechargeable.

Myth Vs. Fact – The Truth Behind Lithium

Lithium-ion batteries have only been on the market for a few decades, and they're changing and improving daily. However, since they're still relatively new, it's important to differentiate what you think you know about lithium versus the truth.

Myth: Lithium batteries are only good for powering phones and laptops.

Fact: Advancements in lithium battery technology have taken the battery's usage much further than simple handheld devices. Today, you're able to power nearly all of your adventures with long-lasting lithium-ion batteries. There are lithium batteries on the market for solar, telecom, backup UPS systems, portable power, golf carts, military automobiles, marine vehicles, cars, RVs and electric vehicles. If a vehicle can be powered with lead acid batteries, there is a comparable lithium-ion battery on the market that's more lightweight and durable.



Myth: Rechargeable lithium batteries are a fire hazard.

Fact: Lithium-ion batteries are completely safe for use. Battery manufacturers include various safeguards to protect against fire hazards. For example, there are safety mechanisms within the battery cell to prevent overheating and a device to prevent power surges.

Myth: The only way to charge a lithium-ion battery is with a lithium-specific charger.

Fact: Conveniently, most chargers work for lithium-ion purposes. Since the lithium charging algorithm is very similar to that of absorbent glass mat (AGM) batteries, most chargers or battery inverters have a manually adjusted setting able to accommodate lithium-ion batteries. Simply adjust the voltage to 14.6V to charge your lithium battery to 100% capacity.

Myth: There isn't much of a difference in the life span for lead acid batteries and lithium-ion batteries.

Fact: A single lithium battery lasts 10 times longer than its lead acid counterpart. The life span of batteries is measured in cycles – how many times a battery can be drained and recharged before it needs to be replaced. Flooded lead acid batteries offer around 400 cycles at 80% DOD (depth of discharge), AGM offers 500 cycles at 80% DOD and lithium offers 5000 cycles at 80% DOD. If you cycled your lithium battery once a day, it would offer more than 13 years of life, while the competition lasts less than two years. The initial cost of lithium is worth the long-term value.

Myth: Lithium batteries are too expensive to be practical.

Fact: While it's true that their upfront cost is higher than that of lead acid batteries, the long-term savings of lithium-ion batteries make them the wisest energy solution. Typically, you'll pay about three times more initially for your lithium battery purchase than you would for a lead acid alternative. However, to truly understand the value of lithium, evaluate the dollar amount per cycle. When you compare cost-per-cycle, AGM batteries must be replaced *10 times* before their lithium alternative would need to be replaced the first time. So, for the initial upfront cost, you receive the life span equivalent of 10 traditional batteries.

Myth: A lithium battery probably wouldn't fit my vehicle.

Fact: There are lithium alternatives for nearly every lead acid battery on the market. But, in the off chance there isn't an alternative, custom lithium batteries are available for design and purchase. You have the option to customize everything from the battery casing to the energy output. Most lithium battery distributors offer **custom services**, an ideal solution for the buyer or product designer who wants to be on the forefront of green energy technology.

Myth: All batteries are harmful to the environment, especially when their life span is over and they need to be replaced.

Fact: Lithium batteries are the perfect green alternative to lead acid batteries. Not only does the long life span of lithium batteries generate less waste than lead acid batteries, which are frequently purchased and thrown away, **but lithium battery parts are also recyclable**. Some automotive manufacturers, like **Tesla Motors**, reuse the wires, cooling fluids and even the metal of their lithium-ion batteries. In fact, many lithium-ion distributors offer to **properly dispose of batteries for their customers**.

How To Choose A Lithium-Ion Distributor

Now that fact is separated from fiction, there are a few tips you should know about buying lithium and choosing the right distributor for your needs.


- **Find a trusted supplier.** Reputation is everything. Select a distributor known for their expertise in lithium-ion batteries. Many battery distributors sell lithium-ion, but lead acid batteries are their focus. Ideally, you should find a distributor that works primarily with lithium.
- **Never settle for second-rate customer service.** There are a lot of battery distributors out there, but you need one that offers the **best customer service on the market**. Lithium batteries are complex, and you want to know you're getting the best battery for your energy needs.
- **If you have a specific need, choose a distributor that provides custom batteries.** This saves you the hassle of trying to find a battery that simply *works* over building a battery that's *ideal* for your specific usage.



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- **Warranty matters.** While lithium batteries have long life spans, you want the assurance that a replacement is available if you need it. Lithium-ion distributors have varying warranties, but there are some with **up to 8 years of guaranteed service and replacement.**
- **Know the questions to ask your lithium-ion distributor.** Do your research and know your energy needs. Your seller should be knowledgeable enough to answer your questions and show you all the reasons lithium is the right choice.

Lithium-ion is the energy source of the future, and the ideal battery for your needs. Let lithium batteries power your next adventure.

A green square containing the text 'Li³' in white, sans-serif font.

Want to learn even more about lithium-ion batteries? **[Click here to contact a RELiON Certified PowerPro](#)** and receive guidance on making the switch to lithium-ion.



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