

### **Q:Why don't laptop batteries last longer?**

A: Usually this is due to the battery not being conditioned while new. (computers purchased in the last couple of years are said to not need this conditioning, but I conditioned my new one anyway.)

When you first get a laptop use it on the battery enough so the battery needs charging. Be sure to run the battery low 5-8 times during the first few months. This seasons the battery to accept a full charge. Rarely using it on battery will cause the battery to fail to accept a charge after a year or two.

This answer applies both to laptops and other hand-held devices. The biggest drain on battery life is using the backlight. If you are working in a well-lit room, turning down the backlight can extend your battery's run-time by 20 percent or more. If you can see the screen clearly without the back-light, don't use it. Save the battery for situations when you're in the dark and there's no electrical power available.

Another way to extend battery life for a laptop is to avoid using the CD-ROM or DVD when you're not plugged into an electrical socket. Either of these devices will consume battery power at a rapid clip.

Note: The latest Laptops are not supposed to have this problem even if they are not 'conditioned' while new.

Revised 5/13/2011JMM