

## Practical Help Tip Sheet

### TOD #004: Battery Life – Tips for Battery-powered Devices

(TOD#004 v1.0)

#### Tip #1: Know if your battery is rechargeable or not rechargeable

There are two types of standard batteries:

1. Standard **non-rechargeable** batteries

- a. Low up-front cost, but needs replacing when used up
- b. Longest shelf life without loss of stored power
- c. Must be replaced battery is used up
- d. Best for smoke detectors that are left running all the time, and devices only occasionally used, like remote controls – devices that don't use a lot of power, good for emergency lights
- e. Replace on a schedule, like the same day each year for all these devices



2. **Rechargeable** batteries

- a. Higher up-front cost, but can be recharged
- b. Will lose power even if not used
- c. Will get about 3 years of normal use (500-800 drain/recharge cycles)
- d. when you notice the battery needs recharging more often, it's time to replace it
- e. Best for often-used equipment, digital cameras, cordless telephones, etc.



#### Tip #2: Replace batteries when needed

1. Cell phones

- a. Can be worthwhile to replace the battery instead of the phone

2. Smartphones

- a. Can be expensive to replace
- b. May not be user-replaceable
- c. Two-year contracts on smartphones make it easy to upgrade but can cost more out-of-pocket
- d. If on a budget, save money by extending the life of your smartphone and having the battery replaced instead of replacing the smartphone



3. Laptops and other high-capacity battery needs

- a. Get a genuine replacement battery. Cheap brands can be a safety hazard

