

How to Set Up Your Electric Forklift Battery Charging Station.

Whether you're running one electric forklift truck or an entire fleet, caring for your forklift batteries is a vital part of maintaining your material handling equipment.

Learn how to set up a safe and effective charging station for your operation using our key insights below.

1. Charging Point Installation

Ensure your charging points are fully accessible to users by mounting isolators on a wall with plenty of surrounding floor space. Mains protective circuit breakers should be of the correct amps and rating to suit the charging equipment. Chargers should be lifted from floor level and all charging cables should be suspended or positioned to avoid damage or trip risk.



2. Station Requirements & Considerations

For safety and compliance, all charger isolators should be fitted with power disconnection switches. Charging areas should be well ventilated, dry and free from atmospheric dust. Although acid-resistant floor protection is not essential, it will help reduce the presence of concrete dust and, in the event of an acid spillage due to battery damage, help to protect the environment. Acid spill kits should be provided in all charging stations.



3. Operator Preparedness

Before your operators can access your charging station areas, they should receive the relevant and regular operational, maintenance and safety training in line with H&S requirements. This should include operational procedures, emergency responses, inspection and maintenance requirements, and an understanding of your company's business processes.



4. Safety Equipment

When equipping your charging station, provision of certified electrical and chemical fire extinguishers will be required. No smoking, no sparks or no naked flame signs should be displayed and eyewash stations must be provided and fixed at a suitable height with clear walking access. Safety showers are not required but may be considered for larger installations. If installed, these showers must be isolated from the normal drainage systems.



5. Frequent Inspections

A member of your team should be appointed to conduct regular checks ensuring all equipment is safe and functional, floor areas are clean and free of trip hazards, and that operators are following the correct procedures in line with their training. A record of these inspections should be kept for inspection if required by H&S officials.



Other Charging Station Requirements.



Charging points should be located in well-ventilated areas and isolated from any **flammable** goods.



When charging your forklifts, they should be parked allowing **unrestricted access** to enter and leave the truck and access charger stop switches, eyewash stations and fire extinguishers.



Provision of all PPE equipment is required to meet with charger point **safety requirements**, such as eye protection goggles or face masks, protective gloves and optional acid resistant aprons.



Ventilation may be required to maintain a hydrogen gas level **below 2%**. Contact your battery provider for more information and calculation.

For more on forklift battery care and maintenance, read our blog on [extending your forklift battery life](#).