



Is fast charging bad for battery

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Welcome to Ask Jerry, where we talk about any and all the questions you might have about the smart things in your life. I'm Jerry, and I have spent the better part of my life working with tech. I have a background in engineering and R&D and have been covering Android and Google for the past 15 years.

I'm also really good at researching data about everything — that's a big part of our job here at Android Central — and I love to help people (another big part of our job!). If you have questions about your tech, I'd love to talk about them.

I asked about buying a charger for my Galaxy phone that could charge it faster and some people were saying that fast charging was bad for the phone battery. If it is then why do companies use it?

Your phone's battery life is measured in what manufacturers call charge cycles. You've used a charge cycle if you charge your battery from 0% to 100%, and most phone battery life is between 400 and 500 cycles.

Note that your phone battery won't really charge to 100% and will only hit 0% if you leave it off for a long time. There isn't enough measurable difference to matter, though, so relying on the numbers you see on your phone is good enough.

That doesn't mean your battery stops working once you've hit the magic number. It means your battery won't be able to charge as much and will discharge faster. You can imagine that charge cycle 501 is like charging your battery to 95%, but it reads 100%. Also note that these numbers are estimated, and your battery may be affected a little sooner or might be good a little longer.

Eventually, your battery capacity will be affected enough to notice. You will have to charge more often, and the situation will get worse and worse. You will either need to have the battery replaced or buy a new phone to get things back to how they were.

Batteries, even rechargeable lithium batteries like the ones used in phones, are disposable. When mobile phones first showed up, they all had removable batteries you could change yourself, but now almost every phone has a sealed battery that requires you to take things apart to change them. Phone batteries have come a long way, too, and most people will end up getting a new phone before they need to replace the battery.

Heat will affect the number of charge cycles a battery lasts. Heat is a by-product of charging a battery, and the hotter it gets and how often it gets hot, the shorter its lifespan will be. This is where fast charging will affect things.

When you fast charge a phone, it doesn't run full blast all the time. Circuits inside the phone and the charger

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communicate so that charging speed is ramped up until a certain point is reached, then everything slows down to keep the heat from getting out of hand. If the phone battery gets too hot at any time, the charging speed also slows.

These safeguards mean that fast charging will have a minimal effect on your battery's actual lifespan but will still work to get your phone from a low-battery state to one where there is enough charge to use it.

While fast charging does technically lower the life of your battery, it isn't going to have a practical effect. As long as you use an approved charger and cable and don't do something silly like put your phone under a blanket, it will be fine.

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