THE EXPERTS IN INDUSTRIAL SAFETY

CHECKERS®

INDUSTRIAL SAFETY PRODUCTS

WHITE PAPER:

Considerations in selecting a Portable Battery Charger for Consumer Use

Dedicated to saving lives and protecting assets

www.checkersindustrial.com

WHITE PAPER: Considerations in selecting a Portable Battery Charger for Consumer Use

Weight, portability, flexibility, ease of use and charge time should be considered when purchasing a portable battery charging unit, according to Checkers Industrial Safety Products.

During late 2014 and thus far in 2015, much of North America has experienced extremely cold temperatures. While those in northern climates are generally accustomed to falling temperatures, even the usually mild states have experienced snow and freezing rain. Many were not only unprepared for slick roads and hazardous driving conditions, they also did not expect to deal with dead or dying batteries.

...the increasing number of electronic features on new automobiles ... are also negatively impacting battery life.

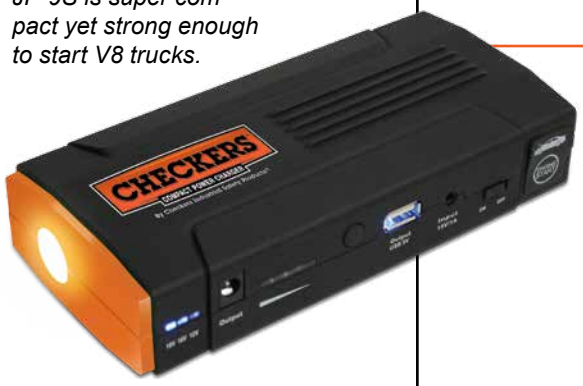
In fact, extreme temperatures are one of the leading causes of battery troubles in gas- or diesel-powered vehicles. According to information published by AAA's Automotive Research Center, at 32 degrees Fahrenheit, a vehicle battery loses approximately 35 percent of its strength. At zero degrees Fahrenheit, an estimated 50 percent is lost. For vehicles with older batteries, their strength is further weakened.

Having a portable battery charger brings an added measure of safety and peace of mind to you and your family.

Cold weather is not the only problem, however. Extreme heat leads to battery failure, as do road vibrations and frequent, but short, commutes. Finally, the increasing number of electronic features on new automobiles, combined with the number of electronic devices (GPS, MP3 players, power inverters), are also negatively impacting battery life. In most new vehicles, a three-year battery life is now expected instead of the five-year life expected just a decade ago.

Given these facts, it is likely that most consumers will experience a dead battery at one point or another. At best, such a failure would occur during a sunny day outside of their home or office. Of greater concern is battery failure during inclement weather, particularly in evening hours. As such, having a battery charging device on hand is an important part of an emergency plan. Choosing the right one, however, requires careful consideration.

Checkers' Compact Power Carger model JP-9S is super compact yet strong enough to start V8 trucks.



Selecting the Correct Portable Battery Charger

The size, weight and cost of the battery charging stations utilized by professional mechanics prove largely prohibitive for most consumers. Portable charging stations have been a relatively recent addition to the automotive industry. Choosing one can be difficult, however, as most consumers may lack the automotive know-how that would assist them in making the best decision.

...a device that can charge both the vehicle battery and the phone, computer or other electronic devices solves both needs simultaneously.

Weight and Portability: The weight of portable charging units varies widely, from approximately 5 pounds to nearly 30. Dimensions also vary, with even some of the smallest units measuring 5 inches high and 9 inches long, and the largest being over 19 inches tall. Depending on a consumer's physical strength and the size of their vehicle, this is an important consideration when it comes to choosing a portable battery charger.

Flexibility: Some consumers have a single focus when it comes to considering a portable charger because they have only one vehicle. Others may have a car, pickup, ATV or boat. For those individuals, ensuring a charger can meet their diverse needs is critical. In addition, while jumping a vehicle's battery is of primary concern to a stranded driver, having a way to communicate their situation is also a part of emergency preparedness. Opting for a device that can jump start a vehicle battery and also charge a phone, computer or other electronic devices solves both needs.

Ease of Use: For those lacking automotive knowledge or mechanical expertise, utilizing a battery charger may be intimidating. Simplicity of use is key in ensuring they are able to utilize the device when needed. Simple controls, indicator lights and straightforward instructions accompanying the charger should be considered when evaluating a potential purchase.

Charge Time: It may be surprising to learn that some portable battery chargers may take as long as 22 hours to recharge after use. Particularly for those who have to frequently travel long distances, being able to charge or recharge their portable device quickly is advantageous.

Summary

Battery failure rates are higher in extreme temperatures, and batteries drain faster as a result of today's electronic devices installed and used in cars and trucks; thus, keeping a portable battery device in regularly driven vehicles is an important safety tool. Although many consumers may lack extensive mechanical knowledge, they can select the right portable battery device by evaluating weight and portability, flexibility, ease of use and charge time.

All-in-one kits like the Checkers' Compact Power Charger provide users the greatest protection and flexibility.