How long do FieldKit batteries last?

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Lithium-ion batteries like the ones used for FieldKit are chemistry in action, and some of that chemistry continues to evolve even if the batteries are stored unused. Self-discharge and leakage current from safety circuitry can result in a stored battery losing as much as 5% of charge per month in storage conditions (i.e. while not in use in a FieldKit).

What can I do to maximize battery longevity?

- If a station is going to be unused for an extended period, **unplug the battery from the station during storage**. Even when turned off, there is a small but measurable power use from safety circuits and leakage current.
- **Store the batteries in a medium level of charge.** Very low and completely full batteries are much more subject to self-discharge and other longevity problems in storage. If planning to store batteries, try to do so around 50-60% charge.
- **Keep the batteries cool.** Battery deterioration is accelerated by high temperatures.
- **But don’t let them freeze!** This can also shorten battery longevity.
- **Check them regularly.** Check and charge stored batteries to 50-60% of their full charge—ideally quarterly, but at least twice a year.

Batteries in use within a FieldKit station are subject to these same forces, and extreme temperatures and charge levels in the field will impact their longevity.

Like batteries in any consumer product, FieldKit batteries won’t last forever (especially not when heavily used), but these tips will ensure they last as long as possible.