

Technology

White Paper: A Look at Rechargeability

Brought To You by Streamlight | Dec 16, 2020

The cost of disposable batteries can really add up and is driving more industrial plants and maintenance departments to investigate flashlights that operate on rechargeable batteries. A heavy equipment manufacturer recently switched to a rechargeable flashlight in order to cut down on battery costs. Those locations were using the Streamlight PolyTac flashlight that required the use of CR123A lithium batteries to the tune of about 16,000 replacement batteries per year.

Streamlight recently introduced the X USB platform – a rechargeable system for flashlights that cuts down on battery costs. The new series of flashlights runs on the SL-B26 Li-Ion USB rechargeable battery pack. This battery pack has a protected micro-USB port with on-board safety control circuit that recharges as easily as a phone or tablet. Plus, it typically provides longer run times than disposable batteries. The SL-B26 batteries can also be charged in 2-unit or 8-unit bank chargers for on-the-go battery changeouts. These charging units ensure that the user can have backup batteries ready and charged when needed, which means no employee is wasting time waiting for their light to recharge. For added convenience, the X USB series of multi-fuel flashlights will run on CR123A disposable batteries as well.

While these flashlights – the PolyTac X USB, in this case – generally carry a higher upfront procurement price than the versions with disposable lithium batteries, the cost savings in just the first year alone far exceed the cost premium. In this example, the average cost difference between the two flashlights is \$10-\$15 each. The chart below illustrates the savings in the first year, assuming the user changes batteries once a week in that year. Multiply these savings of \$200+ per light by the number of lights in use at a plant and you are looking at significant savings in just one year! Take it even further and multiply it over the lifetime of the lights and you'll see substantial savings impacting your bottom line.



Currently, 12 models of Streamlight handheld and right angle flashlights – including a mini hand lantern – run on the SL-B26 battery pack. Streamlight also offers standard USB rechargeable options to replace the alkaline or lithium disposable battery versions of other popular headlamps and pocket lights. The ProTac HL USB headlamp is an upgrade to the ProTac HL headlamp, and the MicroStream USB pocket light is an upgraded and brighter version of the MicroStream pocket light. These flashlights and headlamps have the micro-USB port built right into the flashlight – no need to remove the batteries. These and more offer reliable, long-lasting lighting solutions with the bonus of even more cost-savings opportunities. Contact your Streamlight Regional Sales Manager for more information on these products.

