

Battery power tools

Sales of battery tools now far outweigh those of petrol tools

Environmental benefits:

Less noise than petrol tools

No fumes

No fossil fuel required

Benefits for staff:

No compromise on performance/power compared to petrol tools

Starts at the press of a switch

Lighter than petrol tools (H&S)

Less vibration than with petrol tools (H&S)

Batteries can be carried in a backpack and used with a connecting cable

Easy to clean as tools have no fuel to spill

Trips in Mule to buy fuel no longer required

Batteries can be left on charge as the charger turns off when charging is complete

Benefits for budget:

Servicing is minimal - no engine, just sharpening etc

Batteries do not have to be stored in compliance with stringent fuel regulations

Fuel has a 30-day shelf life - oxidised petrol can result in increased maintenance/repairs

Staff time spent buying fuel decreased

Batteries are interchangeable

Down-side:

Battery will need to be charged after 40-45 minutes or so (depending on job) - but spare batteries reduce the down time and the charging time can be used to clear up, take a break etc.

The initial purchase needs to include batteries and a charger (Stihl currently has a second battery at half price deal), but batteries are interchangeable between tools and only three members of staff will be working at any one time.

Known users of battery-powered tools include a large Town Council in East Sussex and a National Trust property. According to a supplier, a large number of tree surgeons in the area also now use battery-powered tools.

Strimming - some brushcutters can have interchangeable grass trimming heads. No ear protection is required when using some models.