

Do Stairlifts Work in a Power Cut?

By [DirectHome Team](#)

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5 min read

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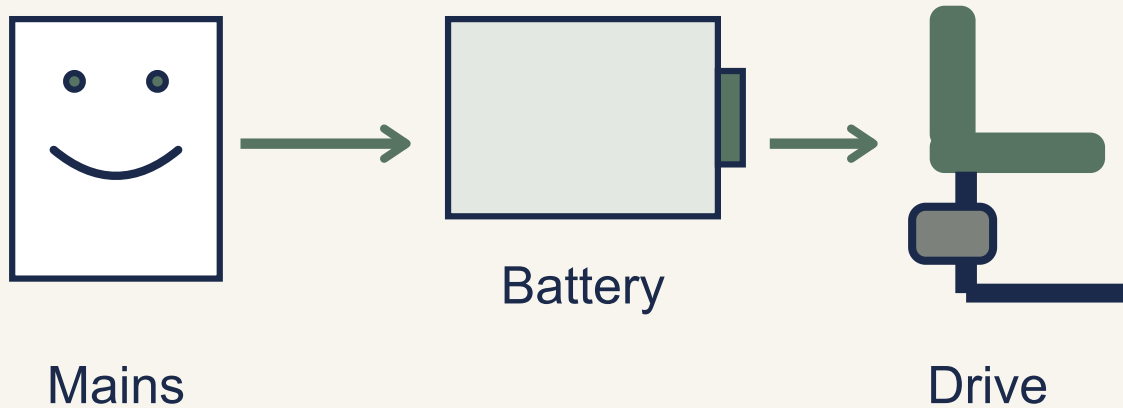
Many stairlifts travel using batteries that recharge from the home's power supply. That can allow use during a power cut, but the available journeys depend on the model, battery condition and charge. Check the instructions for your installation and where the chair needs to park to charge before relying on it during an outage.

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The mains charges the travel battery

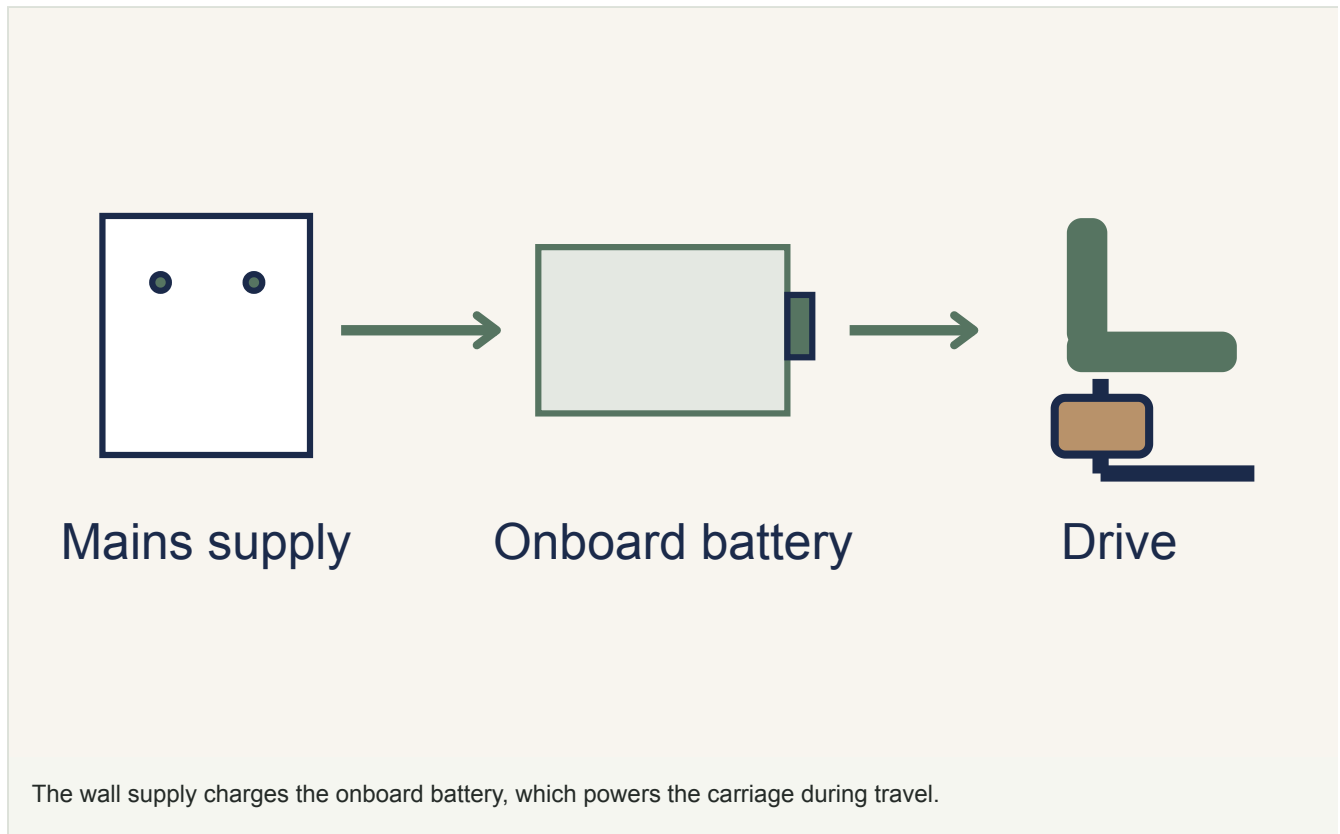


Charging and travel use different paths

Schematic • not to scale

In a battery-driven arrangement, mains power charges the onboard battery and the battery powers travel. Charging details vary by model.

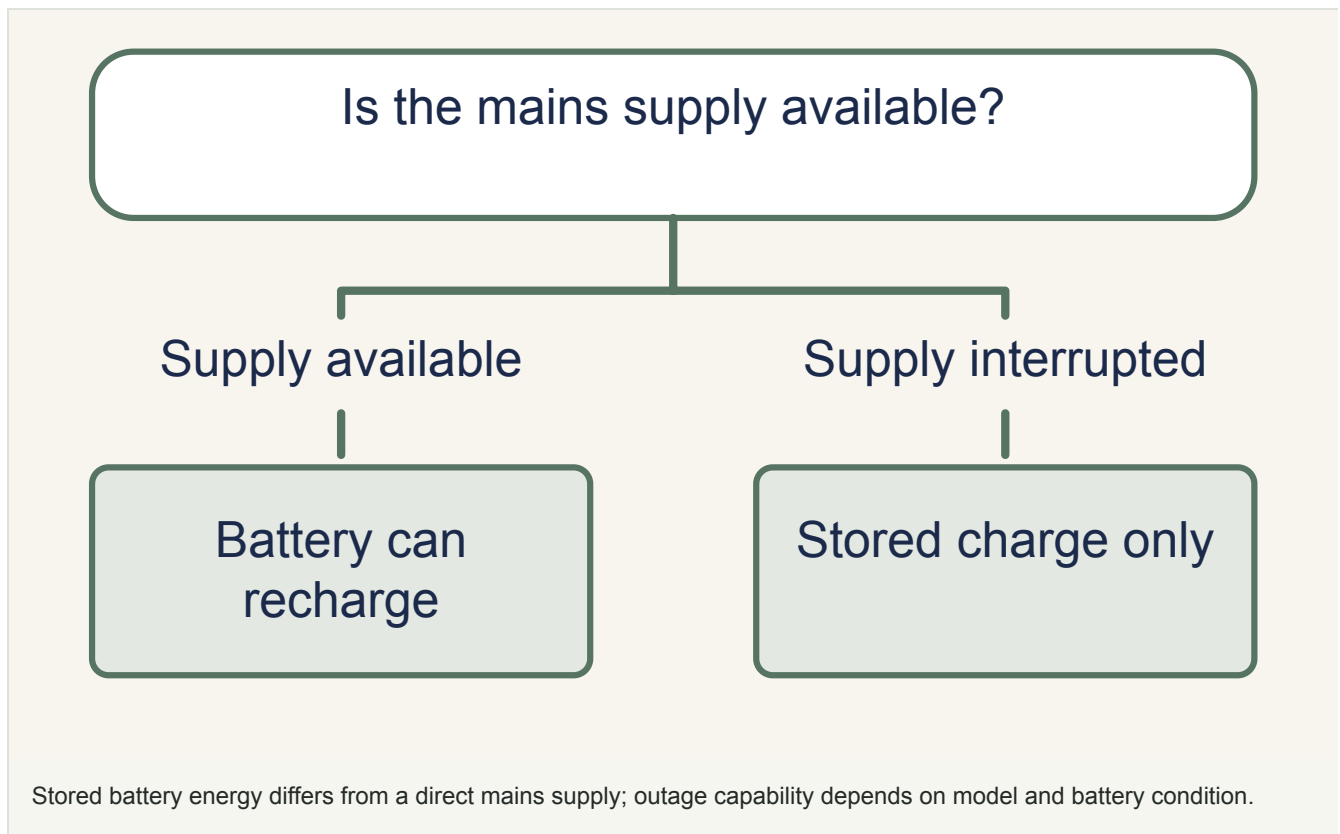
The Modern Standard: Battery-Powered



A battery-powered [stairlift](#) uses stored electrical energy to drive the carriage while a mains-powered charger replenishes the batteries. That separates the journey from the availability of mains electricity at that moment. Some older equipment uses direct mains power, so identify the actual system rather than guessing from its age or appearance.

The [battery and charging arrangement](#) is model-specific. Battery voltage, capacity and charging location belong in the equipment documentation. A familiar brand name does not establish the battery pack, the accessories fitted or the condition of a used installation.

Why Battery Beats Direct Mains



Stored charge can let a battery-powered stairlift finish journeys during a power interruption. The useful reserve depends on battery condition, charge level, route length, user load and accessories such as powered swivels. A published trip count for one configuration is not an emergency guarantee for another.

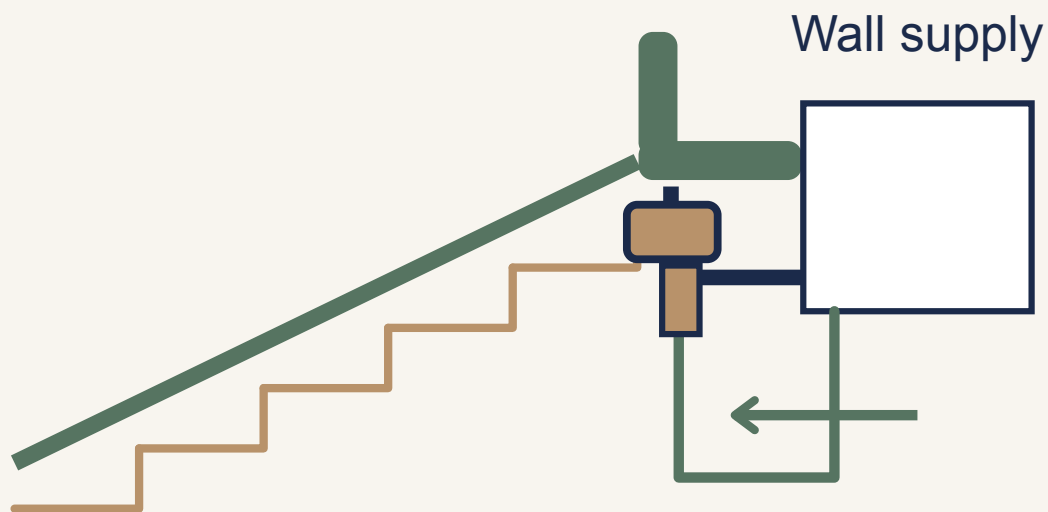
Direct-mains equipment may have different emergency provisions. Compare the complete system's outage behaviour and recovery arrangements, not just the power label. Keep a means of calling for assistance within reach and agree how essential access will work if either a prolonged outage or a mechanical fault takes the lift out of use.

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How Charging Works



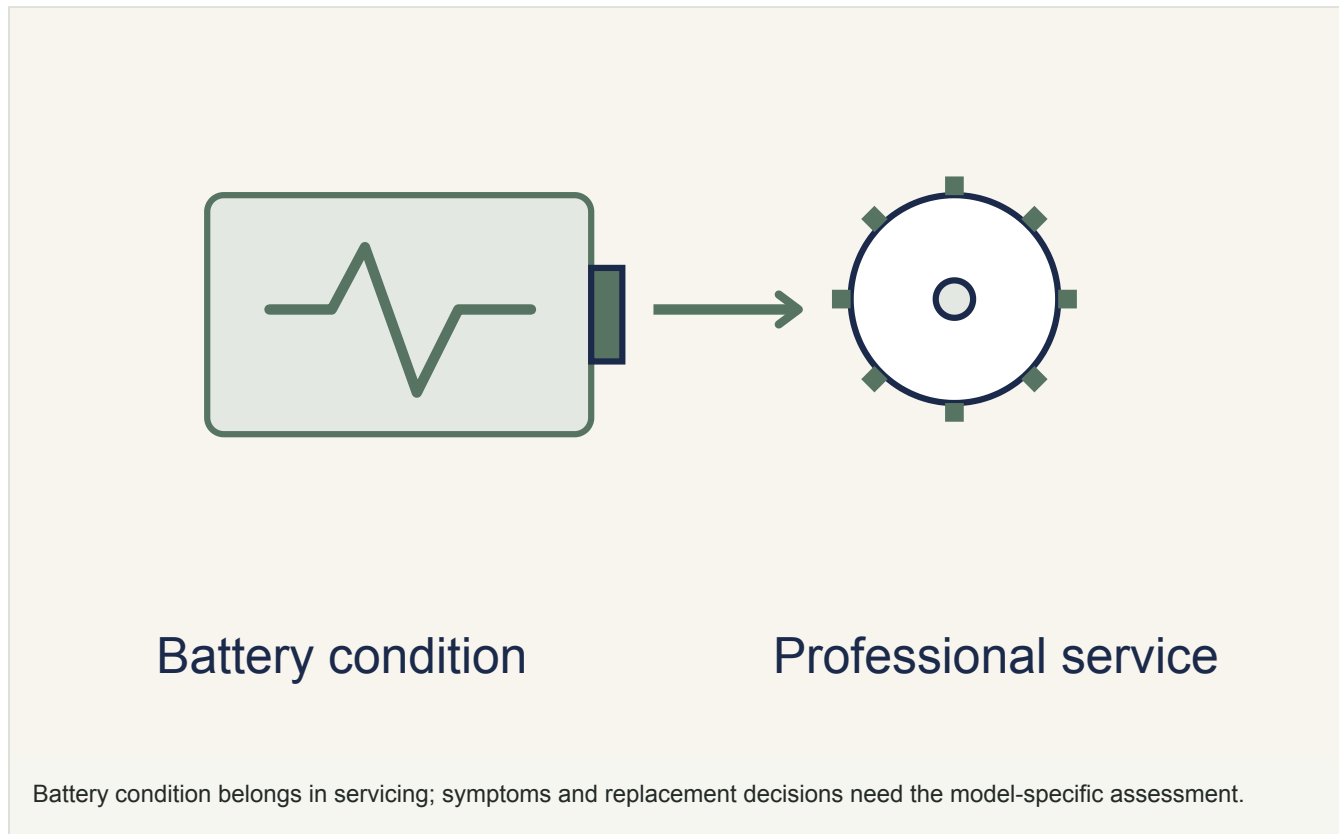
Parking contacts complete the charge path

This example uses parking contacts to connect the charger. Other models can charge along the rail; follow the installed model's instructions.

The charger normally works automatically when the chair is in an approved charging position and its supply is available. Designs differ: some charge along the rail, while others use particular points. The owner needs to know the arrangement actually installed, including any parking extension or hinged rail.

Have the provider demonstrate the charging indication and permitted parking positions. For an electricity estimate, use the model's relevant consumption data and expected use, including charging losses and standby demand. A charger's maximum wattage is not its constant consumption, so multiplying that rating by every hour of the year can overstate the bill.

Battery Lifespan and Replacement

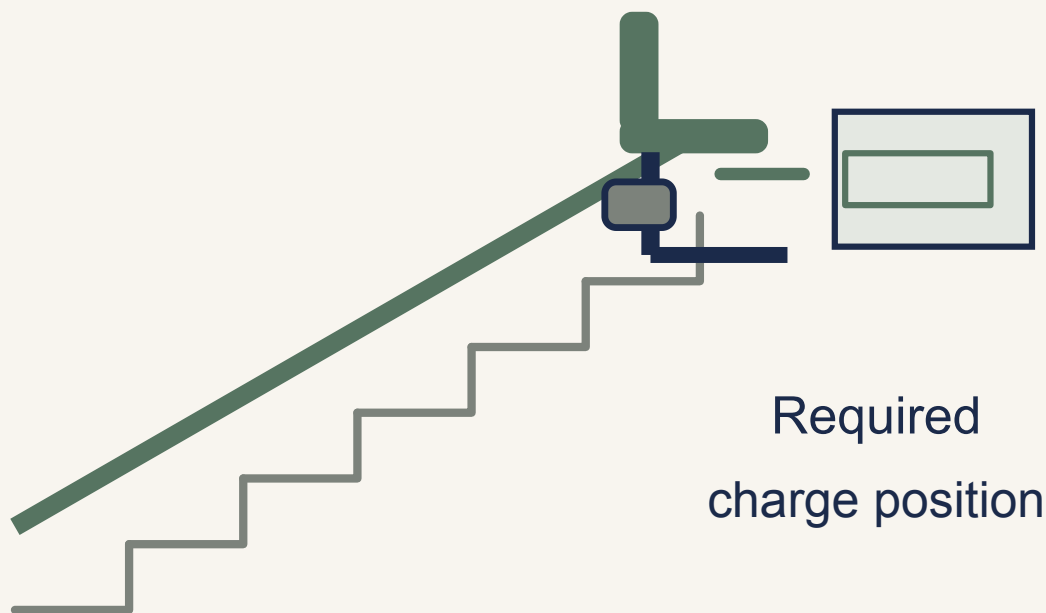


Battery service life depends on use, charging history, temperature and condition. A fixed replacement year can be misleading: a rarely used lift left off charge may still develop a weak battery. Slowing, intermittent travel or failure to charge warrants a service check rather than a diagnosis based on age alone.

Ask the service provider to assess the battery and charger and quote the manufacturer-approved replacement, labour and disposal where required. Compare that with the warranty or service agreement to avoid paying separately for an included item. Do not open the carriage or substitute a pack because its voltage appears to match.

Common Battery Mistakes

Parking links availability to charging



Location and routine are model-specific

Schematic • not to scale

The required charging position connects parking habits to availability. Follow the installed model's demonstrated arrangement rather than assuming every rail charges everywhere.

During normal use, leave the charging arrangement as the manufacturer specifies and park where charging is available. Repeatedly interrupting charging can leave less reserve for the next journey. The correct shutdown procedure for a long absence or outage may differ from normal daily parking.

Do not assume every stairlift charges only at the ends or that every alarm means a failed battery. Learn the installed indicators and the safe owner checks in its manual. If normal charging cannot be confirmed, contact the provider; repeated trial rides consume the remaining reserve without resolving the cause.

What to Ask the Installer

- Exact battery specification
- Replacement supply + price
- Battery warranty
- Model-specific care

Battery specification, replacement support and warranty scope should be known before the eventual service need.

Before purchase, record the battery specification, charging arrangement, outage instructions and service support. Ask which checks belong to routine service and how the provider determines replacement need. This is more useful than a promise that every battery lasts the same number of years.

Check the battery's own warranty and exclusions, which may differ from the chair or drive warranty. Obtain current local replacement and call-out terms. Keep these with the maintenance record so a later recommendation can be compared with the installed equipment and the work already covered.

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