

Powermat FAQ

Q: What is Powermat technology?

A: Powermat is Wireless Charging. Simply put, it the most convenient and simple way to keep all of your favorite gear fully charged without dealing with the hassle of multiple wires and different power adaptors. The system consists of a Mat (capable of simultaneously charging up to three devices) and Receivers (for each device to be charged on the mat). Once a Receiver is attached to your device, charging that device is as simple as setting it down on the Mat.

Powermat is a wireless charging technology. It allows users to wirelessly charge multiple devices simultaneously and eliminate the tangle of wires that accumulate in the home and behind work stations. Powermat is a 2 part system pairing a sleek, ultra-thin mat with receivers that attach to your device, enabling you to charge by simply placing those devices on the mat.

Q: What is the Powercube?

The Powercube is the ultimate “on-board” receiver that allows you to charge 100’s of devices without ever having to lean over to plug another adaptor into the outlet. It eliminates the spaghetti of wire that so often overtakes our living spaces. The Powercube will charge most cell phones, music players, games, Bluetooth headsets, eBooks and more. Most likely your home already contains numerous devices that can be charged with the Powercube, and the Powercube is especially handy when friends and family visit and need to charge their phone or other device.

Q: How can you call this wireless charging if the Powercube has a wire?

A: Powermat is about much more than just wireless charging. Powermat is also about getting rid of wires, about efficient energy, about convenience, about safety – and much more. The Powercube is specifically designed to eliminate the need for the many adaptors that you’d otherwise need to plug in, in order to charge your devices. One Powercube will charge 100’s of different devices. The power transfer between the mat and Powercube itself is wireless.

Q: Do I need to buy a receiver for my device to work with Powermat?

A: You can charge almost any handheld device with the Powercube that is included with your Powermat, but to experience the freedom of Powermat to the fullest, you may want to purchase a dedicated receiver that attaches to your device. A dedicated receiver is custom solution that is designed for a specific model, and Powermat offers dedicated solutions for the iPhone, iPod Touch, several BlackBerry models and Nintendo DS Lite and DSi games. These are sold separately to offer the greatest individual choice and allow you to build the system that works best for you.

Q: Why do I have to put something on my device?

A: Your device must be able to communicate with the Powermat so that it can charge wirelessly. Powermat receivers are designed to work within the aesthetics of your device while providing the benefits of wireless charging.

Q: Can the receivers be left on my device or are they only for charging?

A: The receivers are designed to be left on your device. You attach them just once and from then on can simply place your device on the mat to charge. Receivers vary by the individual device for which they are customized, but as an example, the cases for the iPhone and iPod Touch are protective cases similar to those many people use on a regular basis but with the added benefit of Powermat technology.

Q: Does the Powermat system send power at all times?

A: When a device is placed on the Powermat, the mat will actually detect the device itself – what product it is, what its power requirements are, how full or empty the device’s battery is – and send the right amount of power to that device. And Powermat technology charges as fast or even faster than the charger that came with your device.

Not only that – when the device is fully charged the Powermat can actually detect it and will stop sending power. This is a feature we call auto-termination, and it not only saves energy but also protects the life of battery in the device.

Q: How much power does Powermat draw when in standby mode?

A: Powermat draws less power in standby mode than the vast majority of chargers for handheld electronic devices. Powermat utilizes advanced power management as well as an Energy Star Level V power supply to maximize energy efficiency. In internal testing, the Powermat system (with 3 access points) drew less than half a watt in standby mode, while most comparable chargers supporting 3 devices could be expected to draw, on average, 50% more wattage.

Q: How fast does Powermat charge as compared to other standard chargers?

Powermat charges electronic devices as fast or faster than the original chargers that come with the devices.

Q: Is Powermat technology safe?

A: Yes. The system uses a low voltage for energy transmission, is efficient, complies with all relevant standards (CE, UL, EMI, etc.), and the energy transmission starts only after the handshake process between the receiver and the mat is successfully completed and ceases immediately when the device is removed or fully charged.

You can spill water on it; drop a paper clip on it; put any metal or non-metal object on it – nothing will happen. It is totally passive until a Powermat receiver is brought into contact with the mat and the product is identified by the mat. Plus, Powermat meets all relevant safety and regulatory standards including FCC, which ensures that no harmful waves are being emitted.

Q: Does this endanger family members and children in any way?

A: The opposite is true: First, the technology is ‘child safe’ as Powermat helps to reduce undesired interaction of children with electrical outlets. Your children no longer plug their devices into the wall socket; they just place their enabled devices on the mat.

Second, it helps eliminate the possibility of sparking between plugs and outlets and, therefore, reduces the risk of electric fires. A significant amount of fires are caused by a spark between electric plugs and outlets. By eliminating the use of multiple electrical outlets, we reduce the potential for overloading and sparking. Once connected to the wall, Powermat is a spark-free alternative.

Finally, Powermat also helps reduce the risk of overloading the electrical splitter.

Q: Is there any danger from the magnetic fields?

A: No, there is no danger.

Q: What standards does Powermat comply with?

A: Powermat systems adhere with the following North American and International standards:

- NORTH AMERICAN STANDARDS
- UL,cUL,FCC, NOM
- Energy Star v2.0 (power supply)
- EISA 2007
- INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS
- CE/CB - EMC Certificates
- CE/CB – Safety Certificate
- Energy Star v2.0 (power supply)
- RoHS

Q: Can you charge the Powermat through the USB port (by attaching the port to a computer)?

A: The USB port on our mat is for power output as opposed to input so no; you cannot supply power to the Powermat through it.

Q: Is there any risk to my mobile device or to my battery in using Powermat?

A: No. There is no risk to a device or battery since the Powermat system mirrors the charging characteristics and profile of the device’s original power supply.

Q: What happens to my credit card or hotel key if I place it next to Powermat?

A: There is no damage to credit card type cards (HC cards) while hotel key and similar cards (LC cards) are significantly more sensitive. These types of cards can be damaged by a standard mobile device such as a cell phone as well as Powermat.

LC and HC (Low/High Coercivity Definitions):

- LC Cards: Examples of LC magnetic cards include hotel keys, train/metro cards, paper cards and collectively all cards produced by machines at the POS, e.g. kiosks at train stations.
- HC Cards: Example of HC magnetic cards are Credit Cards, Club Cards (frequent flyers cards).

Bottom line – keep your hotel keys away from your Powermat (and your mobile devices). Your credit cards are totally safe.

Q: How can I obtain additional tips?

A: Additional tips for the Powercube are available on-line at powermat.com.

Q: What happens if you put a hand or non-enabled device on the Powermat?

A: Nothing. The system is passive until it recognizes a Powermat-enabled device.

Q: How long will it take to charge a device?

A: Devices will typically charge at the same rate or in some cases even faster than when utilizing the charger provided with the device.

Q: Is it possible to charge multiple and different types devices at the same time?

A: Yes, it will simultaneously charge up to 3 devices.

Q: Will using the Powermat adversely effect the battery life of a device being charged?

A: On the contrary, because Powermat incorporates an auto-termination protocol that shuts off the power to a battery that's full, Powermat will actually help prolong battery life by ensuring that the battery is never overcharged.

Q: Can it accidentally overcharge a device?

A: No. The intelligence built into every Powermat auto-terminates the charging process when a device reaches a full charge.