

Care and Maintenance

Pen Tablet PC's can be purchased in various level of ruggedness. With reasonable care however, the extra expense of rugged units has proven unnecessary in teaching for 10 years. A mapping vest serves to protect the tablets and often means that protective ruggedized cases are unnecessary meaning the tablet screens are not covered by yet another plastic screen that reduces visibility. A pen tablet can be conveniently carried in an inside pocket of a vest thus providing both convenience and protection for the pen tablet leaving both hands free for mapping and hiking.

Current Lithium ion batteries can be found that last 8 hours in the field when the tablets are run in trans-flective mode to minimize battery use. Batteries must be charged each day to support a typical work cycle.

Lockers with power supplied to the battery chargers also provide the necessary security to protect the pen tablets. Lockers also maintain professional standards by affording users an organized and secure space for *all* their field gear: mapping vest, boots, raingear, hat, sun glasses, Brunton compass, etc. Name plates on the lockers also engenders a feeling of respect for both the assigned institutional as well as one's personal field equipment.

