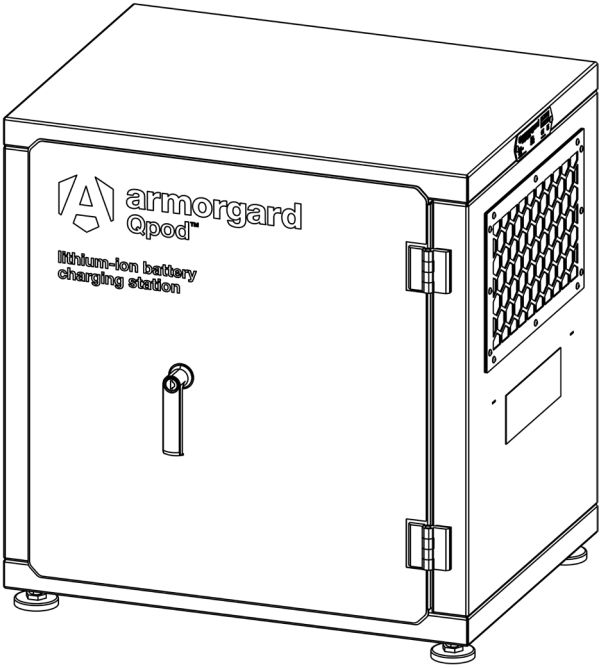
Qpod™

Operational and maintenance manual



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Welcome

Welcome to your Armorgard Qpod. An all-in-one, indoor use, Li-ion safe battery charging unit that keeps fire risks at bay, and dramatically reduces the hazards created by thermal runaway.

Please read this operational and maintenance manual carefully prior to using the Qpod.

Please note that the unit should only be used as supplied and detailed in this manual. No adjustments, alterations, or changes should be made to the unit without prior written consent from Armorgard.

Armorgard accepts no liability for unauthorised modifications made to the unit which may damage or cause compromised operation of the unit and will breach our terms of use and warranty policies.

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Safety information

1. General Safety & Responsibility

- Before using the Qpod, ensure all relevant risk assessments are completed, particularly fire risk assessments.
- The Qpod provides a safer and secure method for charging and storing batteries.
- Armorgard cannot be held responsible for accidents, damage, or injury resulting from negligence, misuse, or improper operation, whether to personal or property.
- Ensure the Qpod is not damaged before use.
- All personnel using the Qpod must be familiar with safe operating procedures.
- You must always follow the Qpod safe battery working conditions on page 14.

2. Installation & positioning

The unit is supplied ready to plug in and use.

- The Qpod must be positioned:
  - o On a flat, solid surface
  - o Level and stable before use, using adjustable feet
  - o Indoors only
  - o An area with good natural or forced ventilation
- Do not position or store the Qpod within 10 metres of:
  - o Combustible, flammable or hazardous substances
  - o Hot works areas
  - o DSEAR or COSHH controlled areas
  - o Naked flames or smoking areas
  - o High dust environments

Maintain a minimum of **10 cm** of clear space in front of the exhaust vents to allow correct effluent gas dispersion.

DO NOT STACK QPODS WHERE THE BASE UNIT IS INSTALLED WITH CASTORS

3. Movement & Handling

- Always use appropriate lifting equipment such a sack truck or follow safe lifting practices.

4. Environmental & Operating conditions

- Only operate the Qpod within the approved temperature range: 0 °C to +45 °C
- Do not cover, block, or obstruct any external ventilation points.
- Keep the Qpod clean and free from dust and debris at all times.
- Not tested in confined spaces smaller than $4m^3$

5. Fire Safety & Emergency Procedures

- As part of the fire risk assessment, inform your local fire department of the Qpod use on site.
- As part of the positioning/situating of Qpod, ensure there is an appropriate Fire Safety & Evacuation Plan that accommodates Qpod.
- If the internal detector is triggered (loud siren/beep) and smoke is visible from external vents:

  o DO NOT OPEN THE UNIT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES

  o Evacuate the area immediately

  o Immediately raise site fire alarm and alert the fire service

  o Follow all instructions provided by them

6. Storage Limitations & load capacity

- Only store batteries and chargers inside the Qpod.
- Do not store batteries larger than the TECR listed on inside of door.
- Do not fill the unit with unnecessary or additional combustible materials.
- Do not store:
    - o Flammable liquids
    - o Vapours
    - o Pressurised canisters
- Each shelf has a uniformly Distributed Load (UDL) rating of 50 kg, which must not be exceeded.
- Always keep doors shut and lock the Qpod when not in use or when unattended.

7. Electrical Safety & Power Supply

- The Qpod must only be powered using the supplied IEC Type 19 to RCD Type G plug.
- The power supply must be connected to a grounded (earthed) electrical source.
- Do not charge multiple Qpod's from any extension lead.
- Qpod's power should always be received from mains protected by a main circuit breaker.
- Ensure there is adequate surge protection.
- Always use OEM-certified charging equipment only.
- Frequently ensure smoke/CO detector is operational.
- Before charging or placing a battery inside:
    - o Confirm it meets the safety criteria on the internal door sticker
    - o Refer to the manual (pages 8-10) for full details

8. Modifications, Adjustments & Warranty

- Do not tamper with, alter, or modify any components in the Qpod at any time.
- No adjustments, alterations, or changes may be be made without prior written approval from Armorgard.
- Unauthorised modification will void the warranty.

Non-Compliance & Limitations of Intended Use

1. Fire Containment & Door Position

- Not compliant for fire containment when doors are open or not fully latched.
- Fire containment performance only applies with all doors fully closed and secured.
- When doors are left open intentionally or unintentionally, there is no protection against:
    - o Flame projection
    - o Hot gas release
    - o Toxic smoke exposure
- Not suitable for environments where doors may be left open during charging, operation, or maintenance.

2. Atex & Explosive Atmospheres

- Not ATEX certified

  Not suitable for use in:
    - o ATEX Zone 0, 1, or 2
    - o ATEX Zone 20, 21, or 22

  Not designed to prevent ignition of external:
    - o Flammable gases
    - o Vapours
    - o Combustible dusts

Product must not be installed in hazardous or explosive atmosphere

3. Indoor/ outdoor use

- Indoor use only unless otherwise stated
- Not suitable for:
    - o Outdoor environments
    - o Exposed or partially sheltered locations
- Not protection against:
    - o Rain or water ingress
    - o Wind driven debris
    - o Extreme temperature fluctuations
- Not rated for uncontrolled environmental conditions

4. Toxic Gas & Smoke Management

No smoke extraction or filtration system

- No compliance with:
    - o Workplace Exposure Limits (WELs)
    - o COSHH or similar hazardous substance control requirements
- Toxic gases released during a battery fire may escape:
    - o When doors are opened post event
    - o If sealing integrity is compromised
    - o Through the dedicated vents
- Additional ventilation or evacuation measures must be specified as part of site risk assessment.

5. Battery Type & Quantity Limitations

- Not validated for:
    - o Mixed battery chemistries
    - o Damaged, recalled, or defective cells beyond stated limits of the TECR
    - o Prototype, experimental, or non certified battery designs
- Maximum battery size, energy capacity, and quantity **must not be exceeded**

6. Functional Safety & Monitoring

- No active fire suppression system unless explicitly specified
- Not a substitute for:
    - o Fire detection systems
    - o Building fire alarms
    - o Site wide emergency controls
- There is no guarantee of:
    - o Early fire detection
    - o Alarm notification
    - o Automatic power isolation (unless stated)

7. Operational and Human Factors

- Not suitable for use where:
  - o Untrained personnel operate the unit
  - o Doors may be overridden, propped open, or bypassed
- Requires:
  - o User training
  - o Clear operating procedures
  - o Site specific risk assessment
  - o Fire evacuation plans
- Human error may compromise fire containment performance

8. Risk Assessment Responsibility

Final responsibility for suitability lies with the end user

- Customers must assess:
  - o Installation location
  - o Surrounding hazards
  - o Emergency response requirements
- This product **does not remove the obligation** to conduct:
  - o Site specific risk assessments
  - o Fire risk assessments
  - o ATEX or DSEAR evaluations where applicable

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure this operational and maintenance manual covers every aspect needed to operate your product safely, please take care whilst using the product and always operate with caution. Always liaise with management personnel on site for any additional operational restrictions that you need to be aware of. Risk assessments should always be carried out when using any equipment.

Fire plan

As part of your routine fire inspection, you must:

- Ensure that the fire department & fire safety team knows how the Qpod will be used and how the unit works. They should be made aware of the location of the unit.
- Larger facilities with emergency response plans must log with the fire department on local information as a point of interest.
- This will ensure clarity in the event of a fire, where the responders understand the fire prevention and suppression capabilities of the Qpod.

Electrical safety information

- Do not subject the total power draw inside the Qpod beyond 13A at any time.
- The power supply must have sufficient over current and surge protection.
- Ensure an assessment has been made of any electrical hazards before using it.
- Ensure that all persons using the Qpod understand its operating parameters and safe guarding requirements for risk free operation.
- Ensure trailing cables do not pose a trip hazard.
- Check that socket outlets are not overloaded by using unfused adaptors and regular test RCD function on the inlet power cable.
- Switch off and unplug appliances before cleaning or adjusting them.
- All equipment being charged should have an up-to-date PAT test completed.
- Stop using equipment immediately if it appears to be faulty or damaged.
- Turn off all appliances when not in use.
- Qualified personnel should determine the relevant earthing requirements have been met to BS7671:2018 and BS7430:11.

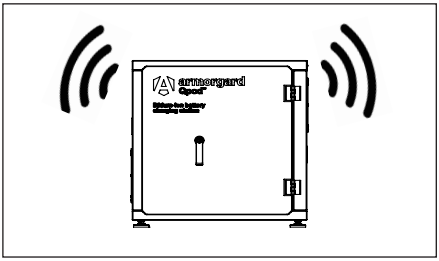
Safe working conditions for battery charging

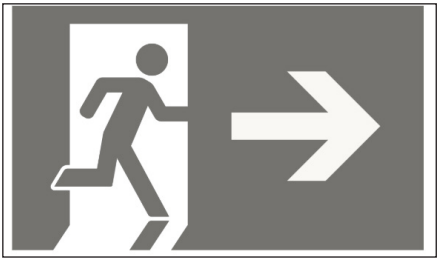
All batteries placed on charge within the Qpod MUST first meet the following checks:

- Check the case of the battery does not have any physical damage, swelling or leaks.
- Ensure no corrosion of charging terminals.
- Ensure the battery is dry and clean of dust and debris.
- Check for error lights or warnings on the battery and/or charger. Only use approved/ certified OEM chargers and batteries.
- Check the charging cables for any damage.
- Never store combustible material on the shelves.
- Do not overload the maximum UDL load of the shelf (50 kg).
- Always follow the battery manufacturer's safety information/advice.
- Unplug battery when fully charged.
- Do not use multi-socket extension leads inside the unit.
- Always shut main door when away from the unit.
- Do not stack batteries on top of each other.
- Do not exceed the total energy containment rating (TECR) of the unit (see details below).

QP1 TECR 1.5Kwh

In the event of a fire...





1. If a distinct loud audible alarm can be heard from within the Qpod, coupled with visible smoke from the external vents, dial 999.

2. Do not approach the unit. Evacuate the area and follow all fire evacuation procedures.

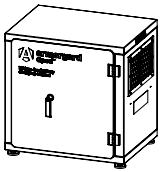
Instruction for the fire department

1. Unplug the unit from the power source, only if safe to do so.
2. DO NOT OPEN THE UNIT until the unit has cooled down sufficiently.
3. Water can be used to hose down the exterior to assist with the cooling process.
4. Contact Armorgard Ltd for additional support.

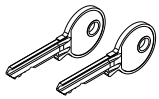
After a fire...

1. In the unlikely event of a fire, once the threat of fire has been completely neutralised, the owner must remove any contaminated waste in the affected areas in accordance with appropiate waste disposal requirements.
2. The customer is responsible for disposing of the WEEE at the end of its life unless otherwise agreed. Please dispose of electrical and electronic equipment through a Designated Collection Facility (DCF) where special facilities exist for correct disposal.
3. As the fire renders the Qpod unusable after activation, the complete unit will have to be disposed of in accordance with any local council regulations and WEEE guidelines. The majority of the unit and contents can be recycled at any metal recycling centre. The EC Directive on WEEE aims to minimise the impact of electrical and electronic goods on the environment, by increasing re-use and recycling and reducing the amount of WEEE going in to landfill. In essence, some of the chemicals and metals in electrical items can be harmful to the soil and human health when disposed of in landfill sites. By working together, we can all reduce the amount of landfill and resulting contamination.

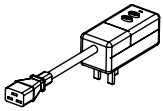
What’s included...



1x Qpod



2x keys



1x IEC Type C19 To RCD Type G Plug

M10 x 4 Adjustable feet, nuts and washers

Product specification

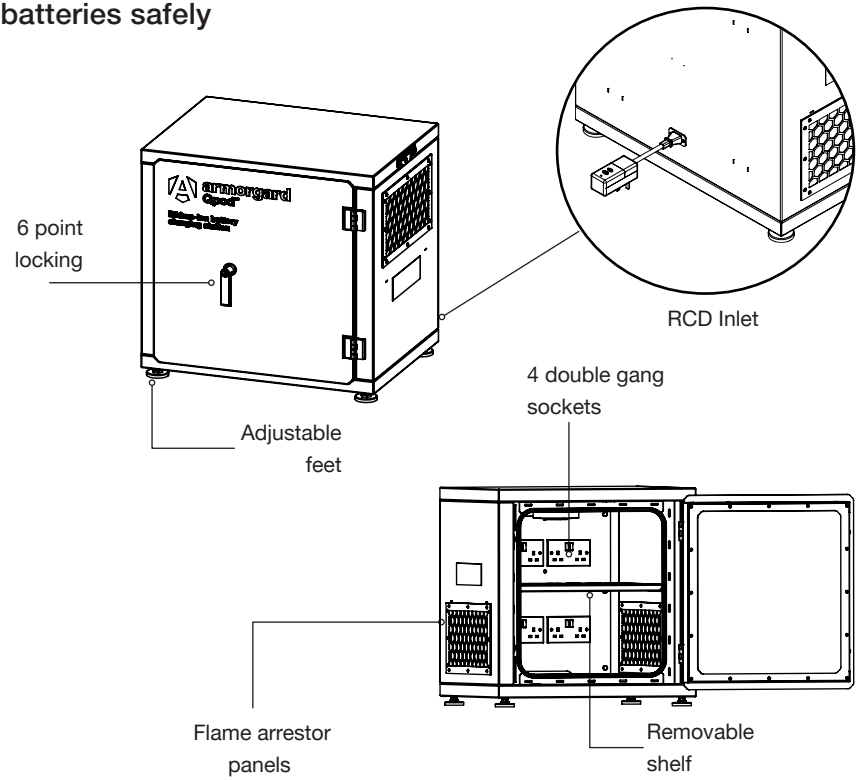
Product Code	Description	Weight (kg)	External Dimensions W x D x H (mm)	Internal Dimensions W x D x H (mm)
QP1-P01	Battery Charging Enclosure	74	688x541x709	510x395x520

You’ll need...

» 17 mm Spanner (for adjustable feet)

Getting to know your Qpod™

A world first solution to charging Li-ion batteries safely



Power supply 240V

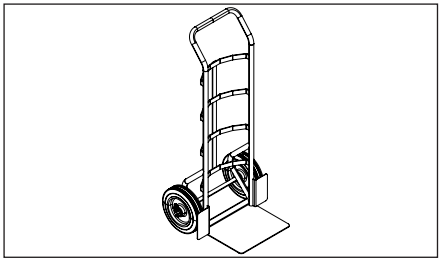
RCD protected

Ventilation

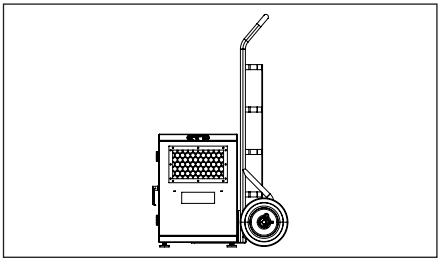
Audible alarm

Safety signage

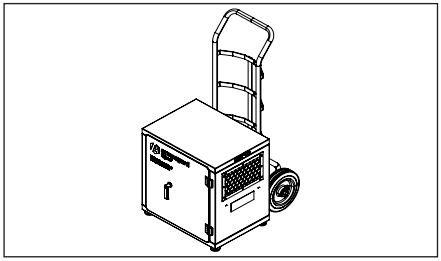
How to assemble



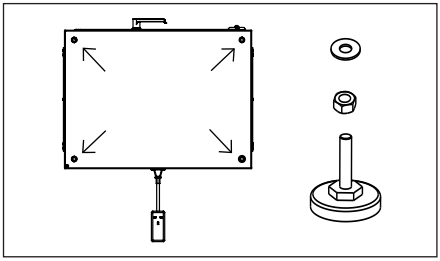
1. Heavy product – 74 kg. Two people are required to assemble and position the Qpod. Follow safe manual-handling practices at all times. Qpod arrives partially assembled, you will require a sack truck or fork lift when unloading your Qpod.



2. It is important to check that the product is not damaged upon arrival and all parts are intact, paying special attention to electrical components. Make a note of the unique serial number located on the top right of the chassis.

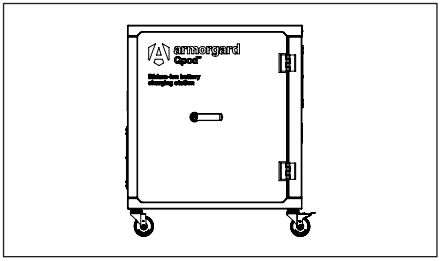


3. Using appropriate manual handling equipment to fully support the unit, gently lower the Qpod backwards until in a horizontal position. Always ensure Qpod is fully supported to avoid personal injuries.

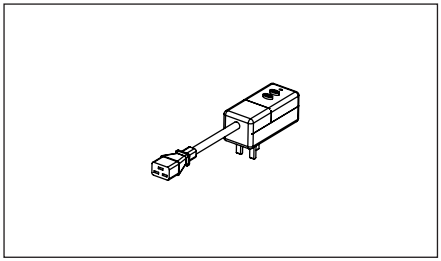


4. Locate the four M10 threaded inserts on the base of the Qpod. Install 1 x M10 nut onto the adjustable foot alongside 1 x M10 washer. Screw one adjustable foot into head threaded insert by hand. Use a spanner to tighten the nut and washer to the base of the unit.

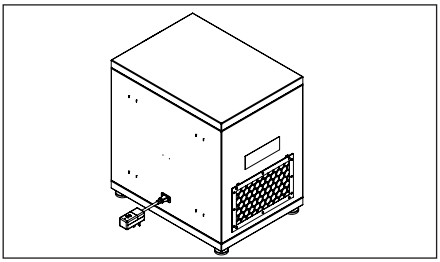
How to use



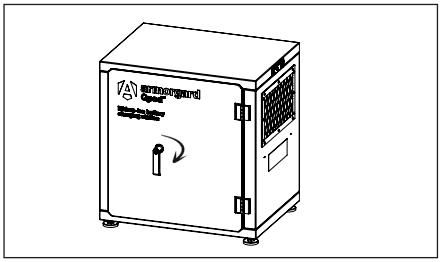
1. Place the Qpod on a stable, even surface. Open the door before plugging in, follow all the safety information detailed on page 4.



2. Plug the pin IEC connector into the rear of the Qpod. Then using the standard UK 3-Pin plug, insert into any grounded 13A UK 3 pin power supply.



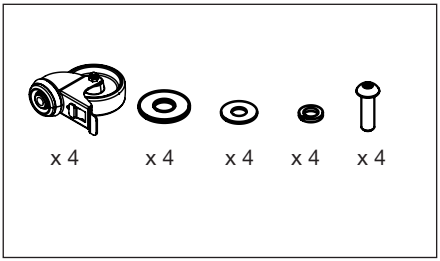
3. Qpod sockets are collectively controlled by a single RCD unit from the power supply.

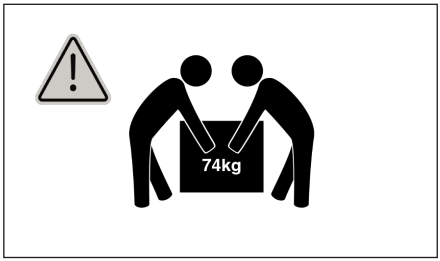


4. Close the door and lock when unattended.

Stacking disclaimer: DO NOT STACK QPODS WHERE THE BASE UNIT IS INSTALLED WITH CASTORS

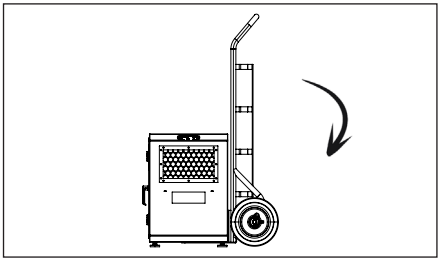
How to install the castors

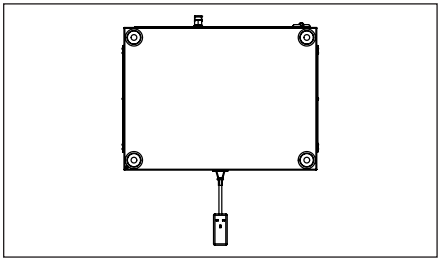




1. The castors content are as follows: four Swivel Braked castors, four M10 Spring Washer, four M10 Washer, four M10 x 30mm Bolt and four M14 Washer.

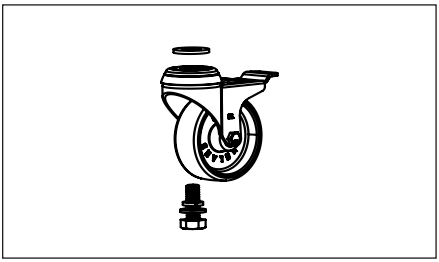
2. Heavy product - 74 kg.
Two people are required to assemble and position the Qpod castors. Follow safe manual-handling practices at all times.

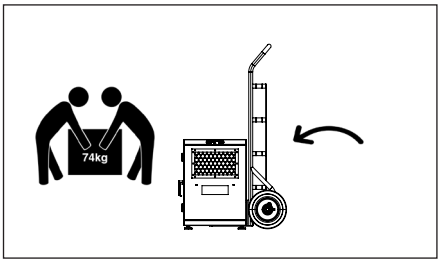




3. Using appropriate manual handling equipment to fully support the unit, gently lower the Qpod backwards until in a horizontal position. Always ensure Qpod is fully supported to avoid personal injuries.

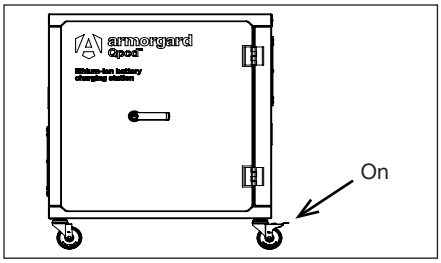
4. Remove each adjustable foot rotating it anticlockwise. Insert 1 x M10 spring washer and 1 x M10 washer onto the M10 x 30 bolt. Insert the bolt upwards through the castor hole, then insert 1 x M14 Washer onto the bolt. Insert using a 17mm spanner, ensuring the Castor is flush against the underside of the Qpod. Tighten to the underside of the Qpod. Repeat for the remaining corners.





5. Insert using a 17 mm spanner, ensuring the Castor is flush against the underside of the Qpod. Tighten to the underside of the Qpod. Repeat for the remaining corners.

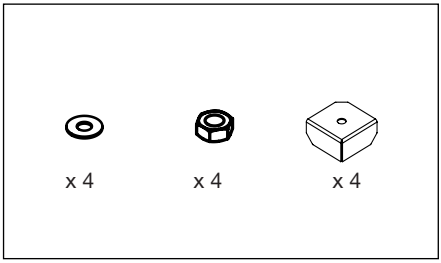
6. Using appropriate manual handling equipment to fully support the unit, gently raise the Qpod forwards until in a upright position onto the castors. Always ensure Qpod is fully supported to avoid personal injuries.



7. Ensure when the Qpod is in use the castors are secure and the brake is activated. Remove any contents and ensure the IEC power inlet is removed from the Qpod when transporting the Qpod via the castors.

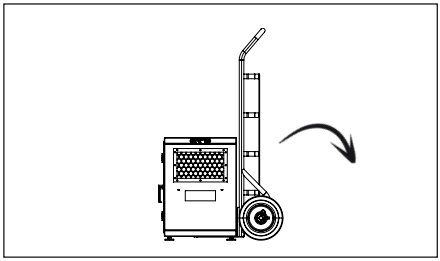
Stacking disclaimer: DO NOT STACK QPODS WHERE THE BASE UNIT IS INSTALLED WITH CASTORS

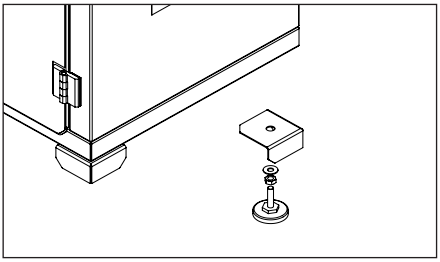
How to install stackable feet



1. The Stacking Feet contents are as follows: four M10 Penny Washer, four M10 Nut and four Stacking Feet.

2. Heavy product – 74 kg. Two people are required to assemble and position the Qpod Stacking Feet. Follow safe manual-handling practices at all times.

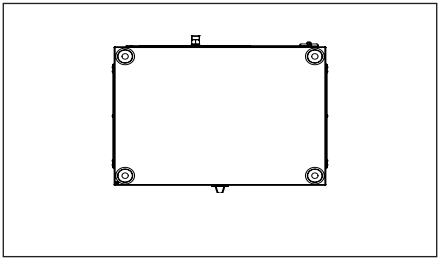


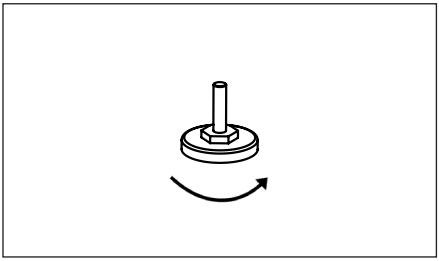


3. Using appropriate manual handling equipment to fully support the unit, gently lower the Qpod backwards until in a horizontal position. Always ensure Qpod is fully supported to avoid personal injuries.

4. Remove each adjustable foot rotating it anticlockwise. Insert 1 x M10 Nut and 1 x M10 Washer onto the adjustable foot thread. Insert the adjustable foot, nut and washer through the hole of the stacking foot.

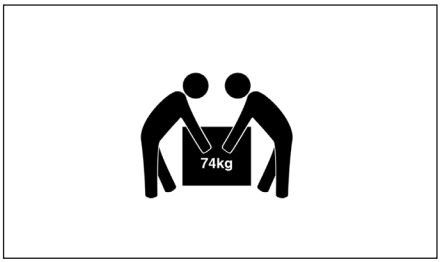
Stacking disclaimer: DO NOT STACK QPODS WHERE THE BASE UNIT IS INSTALLED WITH CASTORS

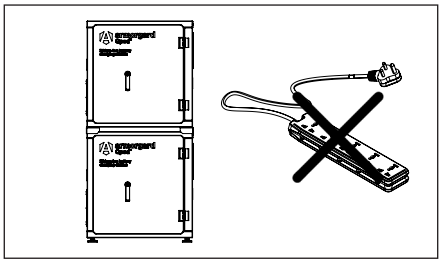




5. Insert the adjustable foot thread into the threaded insert on the underside of the Qpod. Tighten the M10 Nut and M10 Washer against the stacking foot using a 17 mm spanner, ensuring the stacking foot is flush against the underside of the Qpod. Align the corners of the stacking feet and the Qpod together.

6. Tighten the adjustable feet so they are fastened as far as they can go.





7. Two people are required to position the Qpod. Follow safe manual-handling practices at all times. Align the four corners of the stacking feet intending to be stacked with the Qpod on the base. Gently lower the Qpod onto the other. Ensuring all corners are secure and the adjustable feet and firmly resting on top of the other unit.

8. When charging multiple Qpod that are stacked ensure that they are receiving power from a supply rated to handle 2 x 13 A supply. Do not charge multiple Qpod's from any extension lead. Qpod's power should always be received from mains protected by a main circuit breaker.

Warranty

Armorgard products are built to last, and all have a manufacturer's warranty of 12 months - please refer to the terms and conditions for what this covers.

We also keep replacement keys and offer replacement locks for all Armorgard products up to five years old. To get a replacement key, all you'll need is the distributor you purchased from, proof of purchase and your product's serial number, which can be found on the data plate of every product.

Do not force entry into the product, as this could affect the warranty. Always contact us if you require a replacement lock or key.

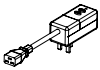
Please note that the unit should only be used as supplied and detailed in this manual. No adjustments, alterations, or changes should be made to the unit without prior written consent from Armorgard. Armorgard accepts no liability for unauthorised modifications made to the unit which may damage or cause compromised operation of the unit and will breach our terms of use and warranty policies.

Spare parts

Smoke and
Co Detector

Adjustable
feet x 4

Shelf



IEC RCD
Lead & Plug

Other spare parts available. Please get in touch for more information.

For additional support and easy access to spare or replacement parts, register your product following the QR code:

Notes

Notes

Version 030726

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