



The Mobile Robot Company

Knowledge Center — Robot Will Not Start · 2026-08-04

<https://info.mobilerobot.com/support/troubleshooting/robot-will-not-start>

Robot Will Not Start

Work through these checks in order when the J1600 does not power on or does not respond. If the robot still does not start afterwards, contact support through the channels on [Submit a support request](https://info.mobilerobot.com/support/contact/submit-a-support-request/) (<https://info.mobilerobot.com/support/contact/submit-a-support-request/>).

Check the key switch

The J1600 has a [three-position key switch](https://info.mobilerobot.com/safety-compliance/safety-functions/mode-selection/) (<https://info.mobilerobot.com/safety-compliance/safety-functions/mode-selection/>): power off, manual only, and automatic mode. If the switch is in the power-off position, the robot has no power. Turn the key to the manual or automatic position before expecting any response from the vehicle.

Check the battery charge

The J1600 runs on a [24 V, 200 Ah lithium iron phosphate \(LiFePO4\) battery](https://info.mobilerobot.com/documentation/technical-reference/battery-specifications/) (<https://info.mobilerobot.com/documentation/technical-reference/battery-specifications/>). Even when idle, the battery drains at approximately 2% per hour in standby, so a robot left unplugged for an extended period — a weekend or a holiday — can arrive at a depleted battery.

To recover:

1. Plug in the manual charger, or send the robot to its automatic charging station if one is installed.
2. Allow time to charge. The charging rate is approximately 47 percentage points per hour, so a full charge from empty takes a little over two hours.

See [Charging problems](https://info.mobilerobot.com/support/troubleshooting/charging-problems/) (<https://info.mobilerobot.com/support/troubleshooting/charging-problems/>) if the battery does not charge as expected.

Check the emergency-stop controls

The J1600 has [three emergency-stop buttons](https://info.mobilerobot.com/safety-compliance/safety-overview/emergency-stops-and-manual-takeover/) (<https://info.mobilerobot.com/safety-compliance/safety-overview/emergency-stops-and-manual-takeover/>), and the [tiller position](https://info.mobilerobot.com/safety-compliance/safety-overview/emergency-stops-and-manual-takeover/) (<https://info.mobilerobot.com/safety-compliance/safety-overview/emergency-stops-and-manual-takeover/>).

mobilerobot.com/safety-compliance/safety-functions/tiller-detection/) also acts as an emergency-stop control. Make sure no emergency-stop button is engaged and the tiller is in a normal operating position before trying to start the robot.

 WARNING

Do not open the chassis or attempt electrical repairs yourself. Service and repairs are handled through your service partner — see [Find a service partner](https://info.mobilerobot.com/support/contact/find-a-service-partner/) (<https://info.mobilerobot.com/support/contact/find-a-service-partner/>).

Still not starting

If the key switch, battery, and emergency stops all check out and the robot still does not power on, submit a support request. The on-machine route is normally unavailable if the robot has no power, so use the support portal or contact your service partner directly.