

Proper Care and Maintenance of Deep Cycle Batteries

- New batteries should be given a full charge before use.
 - New batteries need to be cycled several times before reaching full capacity (20-50 cycles, depending on type).
 - Battery cables should be intact, and the connectors always kept tight. Systematic inspection is recommended.
 - Vent caps should be kept in place and tight during vehicle operation and battery charging.
 - Batteries should be kept clean, free of dirt and corrosion always.
 - Batteries should be watered after charging unless plates are exposed before charging. If exposed, plates should be covered by approximately 1/8" of acid. Check acid level after charge. The acid level should be kept 1/4" below the bottom of the fill well in the cover.
 - Water used to replenish batteries should be distilled or treated to not exceed 200 T.D.S. (total dissolved solids...parts per million). Care should be taken to avoid metallic solids (iron).
 - For best battery life, batteries should not be discharged below 80% of their rated capacity. Proper battery sizing will help avoid excessive discharge.
 - Battery chargers should be matched to fully charge batteries in an eight-hour period. Defective chargers will damage batteries or severely reduce their performance.
 - Avoid charging at temperatures above 120° F or ambient, whichever is higher.
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- Avoid charging at temperatures above 120° F or ambient, whichever is higher.
 - Lead acid batteries should be brought up to full charge at the earliest opportunity. Avoid operating batteries in a partially charged condition. This will shorten their life and reduce their capacity.
 - Extreme temperatures can substantially affect battery performance and charging. Cold reduces battery capacity and retards charging. Heat increases water usage and can result in overcharging. Very high temperature can cause "thermal run away" which may lead to an explosion or fire. If extreme temperature is an unavoidable part of an application, consult a battery/charger specialist about ways to deal with the problem.
 - Inactivity can be extremely harmful to all lead acid batteries. If seasonal use is anticipated, we recommend the following:
 1. Completely charge the batter before storing.
 2. Store the battery in as cool a place as possible. However, do not store in a location which will consistently be below 32° F. Batteries will discharge when stored, the lower the temperature the lower the self-discharge.
 3. When not in use, boost every two months.



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