



Battery Care

general guidelines*

The amount of care and maintenance required varies dramatically between maintenance free batteries and conventional filler cap batteries. Under normal operating conditions, ACDelco Sealed Maintenance Free Batteries should never require watering or similar maintenance. However it is a good idea to conduct through visual battery inspection at regular intervals. The following should be inspected.

Check Cable Connections

- / Check the cable connections from time to time to ensure they are secure, tight and clean. Corrosion tends to build up on terminals and cable clamps.
- / Disconnect the cables and clean the battery terminals and cable clamps separately, using a wire brush and baking soda / water solution [Avoid getting baking soda (sodium bicarbonate) / water solution into the battery].
- / If one or more of the cables is deteriorated from excessive corrosion, it should be replaced.

Check Battery Hold Downs and Tray

- / Make sure the hold down ramp is tightened to specifications. Normal vehicle vibration can loosen the hold down ramp over time.
- / Check the mechanical integrity of the under hood battery tray. It should be capable of supporting the battery in a level position.

Check if the Battery is Clean and Dry

- / Use a cloth with baking soda and water solution to regularly wipe the battery cover and case.
- / Avoid getting baking soda (sodium bicarbonate) / water solution into the battery.

*ACDelco recommends you wear appropriate protective clothing and safety glasses when handling batteries.



Batteries

possible failure causes

Overcharging

Caused by incorrect voltage setting, low voltage caused by heat or internal defects, or old batteries.

Poor Maintenance

Conventional and non sealed maintenance free batteries all require more care than a sealed maintenance free battery. Failure to maintain correct electrolyte levels will damage the battery and shorten its life.

Heat Defects

Battery damaging heat coming from both the environment and higher vehicle operating temperatures can cause conventional and non sealed maintenance free batteries in particular to suffer from:

- / Higher gassing and resultant water loss.
- / Higher grid corrosion or oxidation.
- / Overcharging, and plate failure.
- / Higher battery discharge capacity.
- / Higher self-discharge rate.

Old Age

All batteries have a limited lifespan and will naturally break down over time and use (ACDelco's Sealed Maintenance Free Batteries have features which make them one of the longest lasting batteries on the market).

Vibration

Batteries can fail due to prolonged vibration, usually caused by a loose tray and or broken hold-downs.

Mistreatment

- / Striking a battery terminal or cable end with a hammer to loosen it can totally ruin a battery.
- / Dropping a battery or tipping it on its end or upside down can also damage a battery.
- / Storing batteries near flames or sparks can cause the battery to explode.