



How to look after your battery

The main point to remember is automotive batteries like to be kept fully charged whenever possible, they don't build a "memory". As a general rule, batteries should be recharged immediately after use.

Car/Boat starter batteries.

A regularly driven car should not have to worry about any battery maintenance especially as the majority of batteries now days are sealed or use very little water. The vehicle alternator charges the battery during driving, this is sufficient in an everyday vehicle being driven a few times a week.

Problems arise when vehicles are not being used regularly, driven long distances and/or used irregularly, the battery does not get charged enough and goes flat. There are a few ways to overcome this problem:

- Disconnect the battery from the vehicle (remove the negative terminal). This only works if the battery is charged before disconnecting and the other problem is that it disconnects all power so any computer or radio settings will be lost and security systems will not work.
- A more common option is to attach a small automatic charger to the battery; this is great for the boat over winter, the antique car in the garage or the motorbike and jet ski that never seem to get enough use. There are many brands of charger on the market; we recommend the Projecta AC250 and Ctek units, they come with a variety of connections so you can hardwire a lead to the battery and only have to connect one plug. You must have access to 240V power to plug in the charger.
- Another option is to attach a small solar panel; this is great for the tractor in the paddock or boat batteries when no 240V power is available.

Deep Cycle batteries

For maximum life, batteries must be recharged to 100% capacity. Continually recharging to less than 100% may result in premature capacity loss. It is recommended that batteries be recharged to 100% at least every 5-10 cycles.

- Recharge immediately after use or at least the same day.
- Vehicle alternators will only charge batteries to about 80% charge, for maximum life it is recommended to recharge deep cycle batteries with a battery charger, this charges the batteries to 100%. There are some other solutions like using a DC-DC charger, these will charge your accessory battery to 100% and can also charge different types of batteries e.g. AGM, Calcium and Gel. We recommend the Redarc BCDC20 and BCDC40.
- Use a three stage or fully automatic battery charger, these charges go into a float mode and will not overcharge your battery. The best chargers also come with a temperature sensor to lower the voltage when the temperature increases.

Suppliers of quality batteries, chargers, inverters and 12 volt accessories.



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