

Driving – Auto Battery Safety

Auto batteries contain acid and lead. They operate at fairly low voltages, but hold very large amounts of power (high "ampacity"). They're designed to simplify our lives and, generally, are pretty safe.

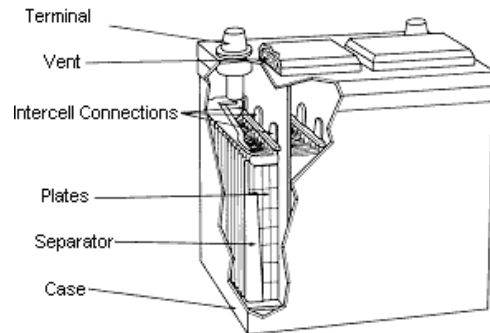
Just like driving a car or walking up stairs, a little care goes a long ways toward safety. When working around batteries, keep in mind that they can be very dangerous when improperly treated. Follow these simple rules, and you shouldn't have any problems.

- Wear safety glasses or goggles and a face shield.
- Wear proper clothing to protect your face, hands and body.
- Make sure work area is well-ventilated.
- Never lean over battery while boosting, testing or charging.
- Keep all ignition sources away from the battery. Cigarettes, flames or sparks could cause a battery to explode.
- Always shield eyes and face from battery.
- Don't use booster cables or adjust post connections without proper instructions and training.
- Keep vent caps tight and level.
- In the event of an accident, flush the affected body part with water and call a EMS immediately.
- Keep all batteries out of reach of children.

Here are some additional Battery Charging Rules:

- Always charge batteries in a well-ventilated area and wear proper personal protective equipment.
- Turn the charger and timer "off" before connecting the leads to the battery to avoid dangerous sparks.
- Never try to charge a visibly damaged or frozen battery.
- Connect the charger leads to the battery; red positive (+) lead to the positive terminal (+) and black negative (-) lead to the negative (-) terminal. If the battery is still in the vehicle, connect the negative lead to the engine block to serve as a ground. If the vehicle has a positive ground, connect the positive lead to the engine block
- Make sure that the leads to the connections are tight.
- Set the timer, turn the charger on and slowly increase the charging rate until the desired ampere value is reached.
- If the battery becomes hot or if the violent gassing or spewing of electrolyte occurs, reduce the charging rate or temporarily discontinue the charge.

Always turn the charger "off" before removing charger leads from the battery to avoid dangerous sparks.



Eye Protection
Required



Face Protection
Required



Hand Protection
Required



Protective Clothing
Required