



**Get The Good Stuff.**



NAPA Know How

## Battery Service & Replacement

If you need a jump to start your car in the morning, it might be time for a battery change. You can bring your car to a NAPA AutoCare Center for a new battery or you can change it yourself. Changing a car battery is a relatively easy job that can be accomplished with a few simple tools.

Your battery supplies the electrical current necessary to start the engine. It also provides necessary power to the electrical components and accessories even when the vehicle's engine isn't running. The battery also acts as voltage stabilizer for the whole electrical system.

Things you'll need from your garage or your local NAPA store:

- New Battery
- Socket or open-end Wrenches
- Pliers
- Screwdriver

### STEP 1

Buy a replacement battery for your car. You must know the dimensions of your battery and the make and model of your car to make the correct purchase.

Car batteries come in different sizes and ampere hour ratings. You want the replacement battery to match the original battery as closely as possible.

### STEP 2

Many batteries have a condition indicator, visible in a window on the top of the battery. Usually, blue = condition OK; red = add distilled water; white = charging necessary. If yours shows different colors, check the owner's manual or label on the battery for further information. If the battery needs more fluid, pour in a little at a time until the level is near the top of the battery grids. Do not over-fill. Always use distilled water not tap or filtered water.

### STEP 3

Unscrew the battery hold down clamp. Lift the battery and remove it from the car. Inspect the battery terminal clamps. Clean and replace them if necessary.

### STEP 4

Clean the battery tray, using plenty of fresh water or a mixture of baking soda and water. Wait for the terminal clamps and the battery tray to dry before installing the new battery.

### STEP 5

It is important to clean all corrosion from your battery. Corrosion can be cleaned off by using a stiff brush and a solution of baking soda and water. After removing the corrosion, rinse off the battery with water. Clean the battery tray by wiping it out with moist paper towels and mild detergent.

### STEP 6

Place the new battery into the battery tray. Make sure that the positive and negative terminals are on the correct sides and install the battery hold-down. Reattach and tighten the positive cable first, then the negative cable.

**STEP 7**

Start your car to verify that the installation is complete and the cables are securely attached to the battery posts. Release the prop rod and close the hood of your car securely.

**STEP 8**

Dispose of the old battery properly. Car batteries contain highly toxic material and cannot be thrown out with your garbage. You can dispose car batteries at your local NAPA stores or NAPA AutoCare Centers.

**Important Tips:**

- Wear gloves whenever working with batteries and follow all safety precautions listed in your owner's manual.
- Your battery and charging system or alternator should be inspected at least once a year at your local NAPA AutoCare Center.
- Neutralize any electrolyte spills or corrosion with a solution of baking soda and water.
- Always remove the negative terminal first.
- Protect your eyes with safety glasses when changing a car battery.
- Extinguish all smoking materials and open flames. Be cautious about creating any electrical sparks around the battery.