

# SAFETY FIRST

## California Proposition 65 Warning

Batteries, battery posts, terminals and related accessories contain lead and lead compounds, and other chemicals known to the state of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. Wash hands after handling.



## Safe Practices When Working With Batteries

- Always wear proper eye and hand protection.
- Keep sparks, flames & cigarettes away from battery.
- Never lean over battery while testing or charging.
- Cover caps with damp cloth to minimize seepage.
- Make sure work area is well ventilated.
- Do not breathe acid mist.

## Safe Installation of Batteries

- Recommended: Use a 12V backup power supply when replacing a battery to prevent loss of computer memory.
- Disconnect ground cable, usually the negative (-) cable but possibly the positive (+) on older vehicles.
- Remove old battery. Note position of positive (+) terminal and negative (-) terminal. Mark the cables for correct connection to new battery.
- Clean terminals and cable connections with a wire brush. Replace broken connections or frayed or cut cables.
- Install new battery in the same position as old one, red positive (+) lead to positive (+) terminal and black negative (-) lead to negative (-) terminal. Be sure to secure it with the hold-down assembly.
- Make sure the terminals do not touch any metal mounting, engine or body parts.
- Connect cables tightly. Connect ground cable last to avoid sparks or explosion.

## Safe Charging of Batteries

- Never attempt to charge a battery without first reviewing the instructions that come with the charger.
- Turn the charger and timer "Off" before connecting the leads to the battery to avoid dangerous sparks.
- To avoid an explosion, never charge a visibly damaged or frozen battery.
- Connect the charger leads to the battery: red positive (+) lead to positive (+) terminal and black negative (-) lead to negative (-) terminal. If the battery is still in the vehicle, connect the ground cable — usually the negative (-) — to the engine block, away from the battery, to serve as a ground.
- Make sure that the connections are tight.
- Set the timer, turn the charger "On" and slowly increase the charging rate.
- If battery becomes hot or violently spews, reduce the charging rate or temporarily halt the charger.
- Turn the charger "Off" before removing charger leads from battery to avoid dangerous sparks.

## Danger of Exploding Batteries

Batteries contain sulfuric acid and produce explosive mixtures of hydrogen and oxygen.

## Danger of Battery Acid

Use extreme caution when handling electrolyte, which is a sulfuric acid / water solution that can destroy clothing and skin. Keep available an acid-neutralizing solution, such as baking soda mixed with water.

- If electrolyte is splashed into an eye, immediately force the eye open and flood it with clean, cool water for at least 15 minutes. Get prompt medical attention.
- If electrolyte is taken internally, drink a lot of water or milk. DO NOT induce vomiting. Call a physician.
- Neutralize with baking soda any spilled electrolyte. After neutralizing, rinse vehicle or area with water.
- Mixing acid can be very dangerous! Do not attempt without proper training.

