ATTWOOLLS
Camping & Leisure
01452 742233

LEISURE BATTERIES - GENERAL INFORMATION

Car batteries are designed to give out a large amount of power in a short space of time (required to start a car) and are then quickly recharged. A leisure battery on the other hand is designed to store power and release it over a much longer period of time. It is possible to use a car battery in your caravan but it is unlikely to work well long term.

BATTERY CARE FOR LONGER LIFE

- Always keep your battery fully charged, even when not in use. Do not let it discharge below 50%.
- Leave in frost free position.
- Keep terminals and lid clean, dry and free from dust. Coat terminals with petroleum jelly.
- Check electrolyte levels. If required, top up only with deionised water.
- When in use make sure the battery is secure and the compartment ventilated.

Remember: This battery contains sulphuric acid which is corrosive. Keep away from clothing and out of reach of children.

CHARGING FOR YOUR SAFETY

- When charging always ensure there is proper ventilation.
- Check polarity is correct before connecting.
- Disconnect earth lead first and reconnect earth lead last.
- Switch off charger at mains before disconnecting battery.
- Keep sparks, naked flames, lit cigarettes and metal watch straps away from the battery at all times.
- Do not charge batteries contaminated with salt water, as this can give off poisonous fumes.

Remember: A battery left in a discharged state deteriorates quicker and may not regain full capacity.

A guide to caravan voltage meters

If you have a voltmeter, you can check your battery's condition using the following guide. Even though batteries are rates at 12v a fully charged battery will give out nearer 13v (see guide below)

Voltage shown on voltmeter / Guestimate of battery condition
12.7v or higher Fully charged
12.5v Three quarters charged
12.4v Half charged
12.2v A quarter charged
12v or lower Empty

CURRENT CALCULATIONS FOR CONTINUOUS POWER

Load (Watts) ÷ Voltage (Volts) = Current (Amps)
Current x Time (Hrs) = Capacity needed (Ah)
Then add 25% on to Ah Capacity for reserve.

For example:
Lights (30Watts) + Fridge (30 Watts) + Water Pump (10 Watts) + TV (B&W 50 Watts) = 120 Watts.
120 Watts ÷ 12 Volts = 10 Amps
For 6 hours = 60 Amps
Then add 25% = 75 Ah