



Deep Cycle Battery Maintenance **“The Heart of Your Electrical System”**

The deep cycle battery in your camper is the single most important part of the 12 volt electrical system. The 12 volt electrical system in your camper directly controls the electronics in your refrigerator, air conditioner, and a host of other items.

The converter (device that converts 120V A/C to 12V D/C) in your camper depends on the battery to act as a “load”. If there is no battery present or if the battery has a “shorted” cell, the converter can become damaged. A damaged converter must be replaced and is very expensive, about \$175-\$300 depending on size.

A well-maintained battery can add years of life to the converter.

The following steps will ensure a healthy battery that will last for years:

1. When your camper is not in use (and not plugged in), remove negative side of the battery leads. This will keep safety devices like Carbon Monoxide and Propane Detectors from running your battery dead. Deep cycle batteries are designed to be run down and recharged, but running the battery completely dead is very hard on both battery and converter.
2. Before plugging your camper into electric, check the water level in your battery’s cells (all of the cells) and fill with distilled water only.
3. Reconnect the negative leads and plug your camper in.

Never plug your camper into electric without your battery being connected. This will damage the converter.

If you like to leave your camper plugged in all of the time or over the summer, check the water level in your battery weekly. You may go several weeks with no water usage then all of a sudden need to add almost ½ gallon.

Your converter puts out approximately 13.6 Volts D/C. A battery is fully charged at 12.8 Volts D/C. Therefore, the battery “dissipates” the extra .8 Volts by “boiling” the water in the battery.

This is perfectly normal and okay.

On rare occasions, as the converter goes bad, it will overcharge the battery. If your battery becomes very hot and/or uses excessive amounts of water, check the voltage at the battery to assure that you are not getting more than 13.6 Volts D/C. Also, set your voltmeter to A/C and make sure that you are not getting any A/C ripple down the D/C lines. Anything over .25 Volts A/C is unacceptable.