

# BOAT BATTERY SAFETY



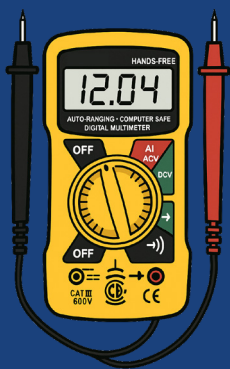
There are essentially three types of marine batteries:

**Absorbed Glass Mat  
Gel Cell  
Lead-Acid**

By far the oldest and most common type, and least expensive, is lead-acid.

## Meter Reader

A digital multimeter is a handy tool to accurately check the charge of your battery. Set the meter to DC volts. The meter likely has different ranges, but the 20-volt scale is probably appropriate for typical marine batteries. Place the probes onto the battery terminals and note the reading.



- 11.75 to 11.89 volts means your battery is dead
- 12.65 to 12.77 volts indicates your battery has a full charge
- 12.45 to 12.54 volts means you have a 75-percent charge
- 12.24 to 12.29 volts is 50-percent charged
- 11.99 to 12.06 volts is 25-percent charged

## MOUNTING BATTERIES:

Batteries must be correctly mounted for them to give safe and effective performance. All batteries should be secured in an acid-proof box or tray to contain spills. A box also isolates the battery from physical harm that could split the case and cause acid to leak out. Positive terminals should be covered as well. Most boxes have covers that serve this purpose.

## CHARGING BATTERIES:

The best thing that you can do for your batteries is to keep them properly charged.

How a battery is charged is critical to its health and longevity. Both overcharging and undercharging will reduce the battery's lifespan and degrade its performance.

## GET THE MOST FROM YOUR BATTERIES

- Ensure that connections to the batteries are clean, bright, and well made.
- Prevent short circuits by making sure that there is a lid on any battery box or boots on the battery terminals.
- Keep the battery compartment well ventilated.
- Lead-acid batteries need topping up from time to time.
- When working around batteries, wear gloves to protect your hands from acid, and avoid getting acid on clothing.
- Stick with one battery type for your boat.
- Isolate your batteries when you leave the boat.
- Clean the tops of the batteries as part of routine servicing.
- When hooking up a battery, ensure that you connect the terminals the correct way.

[www.SafeBoatingCampaign.com](http://www.SafeBoatingCampaign.com)



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