



Tech Talk



Maintaining Your Corvette Battery

Source – Pat Breene Interstate Battery

1. Keep your battery clean:

Make sure your battery terminals are clean and free of corrosion: batteries can be washed with a 50/50 solution of water and baking soda. Dirty batteries can conduct current through the dirt and moisture on top of the battery and self-discharge.

2. Maintaining the proper charge:

Late model Corvettes C-4 thru C-7 have very sophisticated electrical systems that require many computers to operate the system properly. These computers remain on all the time and produce a significant Key-Off drain (electrical loads that remain on when the Corvette is parked). If these Corvettes remain parked for as little as two weeks the battery can sustain significant discharge. If the battery is subjected to cycling (drawn down, recharging then drawing down again) it will shorten the life of the battery. Also, you may be driving around with a half (or lower) charge battery that may cause problems that puts extra strain on the alternator. If possible all C-4 thru C-7 Corvettes should have a Battery Tender hooked up to the battery when your Corvette is parked for extended periods (2-weeks or longer). These tenders are readily available under many different brands names and will extend the life of your battery significantly. Please note that battery tenders are designed to keep a charged battery charged and cannot charge a dead or severely discharged battery.

C-1 thru C-3 Corvettes have very little Key-Off drain and can sit for extended periods (up to 90 days at room temp or below) without any ill effects on the battery.

3. All batteries will self-discharge on their own:

At room temperature (72 degrees), a battery in storage will lose 25% of its charge in 90 days and the higher the ambient temperature the faster the discharge.

Batteries that sit for extended periods in a partial or completely discharged state will sulfate and permanent loss of capacity and life span.