

Summer Maintenance: Advice for Workshops and Drivers

Summer heat can be surprisingly damaging to car batteries. When the temperature rises, their charge starts to fall. Global stored energy leader Exide Technologies provides advice on summer battery maintenance.

DIAGNOSING SELF-DISCHARGE: WORKSHOP ADVICE

Spot and solve your customers' battery problems both in summer and all year round with the help of an advanced testing tool:

1. Levels to look for

- A fully charged car battery voltage should be 12.7 V or above. A voltage of 12.5 V or below means that the battery has started to discharge

2. Choose a smart testing tool

- As demand for battery servicing increases in line with the higher power needs of today's vehicles, an advanced battery tester can help workshops to stand out from the crowd. The EBT965P battery tester from Exide Technologies is one of the most innovative, future-proof tools available, offering a range of added-value features.
- The tester is suitable for use with EFB (enhanced flooded batteries), AGM (absorbent glass mat), GEL and standard flooded batteries up to 3000A for light, commercial, marine and leisure vehicles.
- The tool can also perform a system test and determine whether the alternator, regulator and overall charging system are working as they should. Poor alternator output will cause the battery to be undercharged during driving, resulting in lower average state of charge, reduced capacity and premature failure.
- Its Wi-Fi-enabled platform allows for future updates and includes a pioneering preventative maintenance feature: Conductance Profiling™ technology. This uses advanced algorithms validated on Exide products, to assess the residual energy available in a battery to supply the vehicle's electrical devices. It also allows workshops to advise how soon the client's battery should be retested – even when it can still crank the engine, and before the driver notices obvious symptoms. Test results can be efficiently shared with the motorist either via e-mail or with the built-in printer.

Our Values



Integrity



Accountability



Quality



Safety



Courage



Customer
Success

PREVENTING SELF-DISCHARGE: DRIVER ADVICE

Share these top tips with motorist customers to help them avoid a deteriorating car battery this summer:

1. Maintain the fluids

- To prevent the engine from overheating, top up and change the engine oil regularly. Also periodically check the radiator fluids. For lead-acid batteries with access to cells, check the electrolyte level in each cell and if any has evaporated, top up with distilled water.

2. Park in the shade

- Ideally, park the car in a shady spot or in a garage. This will protect the battery from damaging heat build-up under the bonnet.

3. Keep the battery clean

- If summer's heat has caused any corrosion on the battery terminals, clean this off to keep current flowing well. Ensure the connections are also clean and tight.

4. Trickle charge it

- Using a trickle charger during the summer months can help to offset self-discharge caused by high temperatures, especially if the car won't be used for several days.

5. Test for problems

- Ask your technician to test your battery regularly for signs that charge is draining. If the car is hard to start, also have the overall electrical system checked by your technician. If any component result is marginal, or the battery is physically damaged in any way, it's probably time to get it replaced.

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