

Lead acid starter batteries

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The most popular types of batteries for powering vehicles are lead-acid batteries. Though they date back to the 19th century, lead-acid is still the technology drivers rely on most to keep them moving. But lead-acid batteries aren't one-size-fits-all. In fact, the battery you should choose is highly dependent on your vehicle and the type of power it needs.

Keep reading to learn about the power of lead-acid batteries.

In its simplest form, a battery is a device that stores chemical energy and converts it to electrical energy.

Batteries have three main components:

In a lead-acid battery, the anode is connected to lead plates on one side of the box, and the cathode is connected to lead dioxide plates on the opposite side. The middle is made up of alternating lead and lead dioxide plates surrounded by sulfuric acid (the electrolyte).

When the reaction is initiated, a current flows from the lead oxide cathode to the lead anode. The lead gives up electrons that the lead dioxide accepts, converting both plates into solid lead sulfate. The supply of energy and external resistance discharges the battery.

According to Bill Hammack, the Engineering Guy, batteries are engineered to have either high energy density or high power density. "The difference being that batteries with a high energy density can store large amounts of energy, and release it reliably over long periods of time, whereas batteries with a high power density release large amounts of energy quickly."

Lead-acid batteries that skew toward the high power density end of the spectrum are used to provide a quick burst of power, like when you turn the key in your car's ignition.

High energy density batteries are designed with longevity in mind. These batteries power things like golf carts or powersport vehicles that need a lasting supply of energy. They're also effective in renewable energy applications, where energy captured from solar panels needs to be stored for extended periods of time.

High Power: Starting, Lighting, Ignition Batteries

Starting, lighting, ignition (SLI) batteries fall into the high power category. These are the batteries you'll find in your car or motorcycle. They are designed to provide a powerful burst of energy to start the ignition. SLI batteries aren't designed to keep your car running; that's the job of the engine. As your car runs, the alternator recharges the battery. SLI batteries shouldn't be deeply discharged. In



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fact, if you run your SLI battery to zero charge multiple times, you'll likely end up with a dead battery.

Primary applications for SLI batteries include:

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