



Lithium battery for camper van

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Converting a camper van comes along with many decisions. What layout should you do? Do you need a shower? Do you want a convertible bed or fixed bed? And, so many more. Today we are going to address all the questions that come with selecting the right batteries for your camper van. Arguably, one of the more important decisions you will make for comfort in your camper van!

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Before we get into the weeds of battery types and brands, let's first determine how much battery capacity you need. What is battery capacity? Battery capacity is the amount of power you can store. You need power to do anything with electricity in your camper van. This includes everything from lights, to charging your phone, and cooking. Determining your battery capacity begins with gathering a realistic picture of what your power needs are per day as a van lifer. From there, we recommend having at least 2 full days of battery capacity on board for rainy, or winter days. There will be days where you aren't able to drive to charge, or there is no solar energy. Don't worry, a detailed calculation is coming.

There are two types of loads you will use in your camper van when pulling electricity: DC and AC.

DC power is anything hardwired into your system. Most camper van electrical systems DC power is 12V, or 24V. DC power is the most efficient power as it does not need to be converted prior to use, therefore, you should utilize this wherever possible! AC power is simply anything that plugs into an outlet. This is slightly less efficient power because it must be converted through an inverter to a higher voltage prior to use.

To learn more about Camper Van Electrical specifics, visit our Complete Guide to Camper Van Electrical.

We said a more detailed calculation was coming, so here it is! Below are the steps for determining your daily power needs in a camper van.

There are two main types of batteries in camper van systems: Lithium-ion and AGM. The decision of which one you should use is often brought down to a combination of budget, weight, and battery life.

Lithium-ion batteries are:

Let's say your power audit from above suggested 200ah of battery capacity. For this, you would only need 200ah of Lithium batteries; however, if you choose AGM batteries, you need 400ah of batteries to



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achieve the 200ah of usable capacity.

All lithium batteries require careful monitoring and management for safety and longevity. For this, your electrical system should have a BMS, or Battery Management System. For some brands, like Battle Born Batteries, the batteries come with an internal BMS. While other brands, like Victron Energy, require an external BMS. Below we outline some pros/cons of internal vs. external BMS so that you can make the right decision for your camper van electrical system:

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