Car battery characteristics

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When it"s time to replace your vehicle"s battery, you might think that any battery will do. However, there are several car battery types, each with a set of defining characteristics that make each best suited for certain use cases.

These days, batteries are more efficient and reliable. As recently as a decade ago, car owners had to run regular maintenance checks on the battery to ensure that the acid levels were balanced. If there was a discrepancy, the cell would have to be topped-up with distilled water.

SLI batteries are the most popular type of automotive battery. They rely on a chemical reaction that occurs when lead and leads oxide plates within the battery container are immersed in an acid solution. This chemical reaction discharges voltage of 6 or 12v, enough to power the starting, lighting, and ignition functions of the car, along with any other electrical requirements.

As the name suggests, this battery is responsible for the ignition, lighting, and successful starting of the vehicle, along with other electrical systems such as the radio and wipers.

It has a shallow charge cycle: The time it takes for the battery to run down, and recharge. It delivers quick and powerful bursts of energy and as such, is the most common type of battery, usually factory-fitted to a new car.

SLI batteries aren"t recommended for vehicles that spend a great deal of time standing idle. If this is unavoidable, at the very least the engine should be started once every week.

They are designed to deeply discharge repeatedly and supply a steady amount of current each time. Their ability to do this makes them ideal batteries for small recreational vehicles such as golf carts, and marine vehicles.

Since the inside of the battery is not accessible, in the event of their failure, repairing or servicing them is not possible; They have to be replaced. Being low-maintenance is what attracts many buyers as there is no requirement to keep the water levels topped-up.

Sealed unit batteries that deliver quick, powerful bursts of energy, faster than other sealed battery types. The rapid reaction that occurs between the fiberglass mat and the electrolytes results in a powerful start.

The gel cell battery operates in much the same way as other VRLA batteries, however, some of the sulfuric acid is replaced with silica. This changes the solution into a more gel-like substance that immobilizes and prevents leakage.

Cathode lead plates attach to the positive terminal and anode lead plates to the negative one. The electrolytes, lead, and lead oxide triggers an electric reaction to create power.

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