

Winter chill can put battery in a bind

AAA replacements reliable, ease your concerns

It shouldn't be assumed the 2023-24 winter season will be similar to last season's. It's likely snow and colder temperatures could be on the horizon. Frigid wind-chills and icy conditions add to the wear and tear on vehicles, particularly batteries.

It's an ideal time to have your car's battery tested to be assured it's ready for the upcoming winter season. Batteries are delicate and could lose charge with the first wave of chilly conditions. Cold and damp weather can take a toll on an electrical system overburdened by defrosts, windshield wipers and lights. It's never too early to be prepared.

Lead-acid batteries' lifespans depend on a variety of factors, but only 30% of new ones will last three years. Batteries must work under temperature extremes and withstand constant shocks and vibrations.

It might seem as if batteries that are used less often should have better lifespans, but that isn't always the case. Batteries could drain more quickly if the car is driven 20 minutes or fewer, causing the battery never to fully charge. Batteries that are deeply discharged or rest idly for long periods of time are more vulnerable to sulfation, a buildup of lead-sulphate crystals, the primary cause of premature-battery failure.

New cars require a steady flow of



HOLDS A CHARGE – AAA batteries have 36-month, free-replacement nationwide warranties. *Image: AAA.*

electricity to control multiple onboard computers and powertrain features, such as stop-start technology, heated seats, wireless hotspots and video displays that keep the vehicle running smoothly. Reduced hours of daylight result in more use of headlights and heating – all of which take tolls on the battery's power reserve.

The battery should be replaced to help prevent a future roadside

emergency if you notice a dimming of interior lights or a clicking noise when turning over the transmission. Have a trained technician clean the battery cables and check that the electrical system is charging correctly.

AAA Battery Service offers fast, accurate and convenient mobile-battery testing and replacement. State-of-the-art diagnostic equipment will confirm whether the battery will hold a charge,

or if the problem lies deeper in the electrical system.

This service is included in your AAA membership. If necessary, and with your approval, a new, high-quality AAA battery will be installed immediately and onsite.

AAA Battery Service vehicles carry batteries compatible with 90% of all cars, SUVs and light trucks. And each AAA-branded battery is covered by an unprecedented nationwide 36-month, free-replacement warranty.

Our Instant Quote battery-price calculator on AAA.com will provide you member and nonmember pricing for your vehicle's battery, reflecting your exclusive AAA discount. Every battery AAA replaces – more than 2 million since 2021 – is safely recycled to protect the environment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If your battery is failing you, give yourself the added peace of mind by calling the AAA Battery Service for a no-cost evaluation. AAA Battery Service is available from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. 7-days a week. To verify AAA Battery Service availability in your area, call our toll-free number: 1-800-222-4357.

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¹AAA Car Care Service Package is a limited-time offer for members, valid 9/1/23-11/30/23, priced at \$64.99 with synthetic blend oil, or for \$84.99 with full synthetic oil. Oil change includes up to five quarts of oil. Tire rotation is only performed if needed. Tax and environmental fees not included. Available for most passenger cars and light trucks. Diesel and select domestic, European, Asian and exotic cars excluded. Inspection is limited to items identified on the designated inspection form only. Cost of any repairs not included. Appointment may be required. Contact the facility in advance for details. Other restrictions may apply. **Not valid with any other offer, including 10% AAA Member discount.** Valid AAA Membership card must be presented at a participating AAA Approved Auto Repair facility at the time of service.
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