



How to change a car battery

The Walmart Auto Care Center will install your new battery for free, or you can follow these easy steps to do it yourself.

What you'll need

- **A new replacement battery**—see below for how to choose the right one.
- **A wrench**
- **Disposable latex gloves**
- **Safety glasses**

Choose the right replacement battery

Before you buy a new battery, look at your current battery. Write down the following information, and purchase a new battery with the same stats.

- Battery group (the size of the battery)
- Reserve capacity (how long the battery can run the car if your alternator fails)
- Cold-cranking amps (how well the battery performs in cold weather)

Also check your owner's manual to ensure that a battery with the correct numbers was previously installed. If you can't determine which battery is correct, ask your mechanic or automotive center expert which battery is right for your car's make, model and year.

If you live in a cold climate and your vehicle's owner's manual permits, consider purchasing a battery that's the same size as your current one but has a larger reserve capacity and higher cold-cranking amps. Not sure if you need the extra power? Ask your mechanic or automotive center expert what battery will work best in your region.

Safety precautions

- Whenever you work on your car, make sure the engine is off, the car is in park or gear and the key is removed from the ignition.
- Put on latex gloves and safety glasses before starting any work.
- When handling a car battery, never touch both the positive and negative terminals at the same time.

Before you start

Is your old battery covered in corrosion? Use a brush and a mixture of baking soda and water to clean it off before you replace it. Be sure to wear gloves, so you don't touch the corrosion with your bare hands.

Disconnect the old battery

Making sure your vehicle's engine is off, disconnect the negative (black) battery cable from the battery terminal by using a wrench to loosen and remove the mount that holds the negative battery cable onto the battery. Never let the wrench touch any other metal part of the vehicle. Once the negative cable is removed, do the same thing on the positive side. Before you take the battery out of your car, note how it's placed. You will need to place the new battery in the same position, with positive and negative terminals facing the proper direction.

Remove the old battery

Some batteries are held in place by a metal bar or a strip. If so, remove the nuts or bolts that connect the bar to the car frame. Now, you're ready to pull out the battery. If you've already bought a new battery for the car, you know how heavy they are; use caution when taking out the old battery. Lift it with a smooth pulling motion.

Install the new battery

Put the new battery into the car facing the same direction as the old battery. Connect the positive (red) cable to the positive terminal first. Don't touch any other metal part of the car with your wrench as you tighten the connection. Repeat the process with the negative (black) cable and terminal, and replace the metal bar or strip holding the battery in place, if your car has one.

Start the car

After you've installed the new battery, start your car to make sure the battery works and that you've tightened the connections properly. If your car doesn't start, tighten or reconnect the battery cables. Then, start the car again.

Recycle

Old batteries should be recycled. Locate the nearest Walmart Auto Care Service Center, and recycle your old batteries there.

Shop our full selection of car batteries and accessories at your local Walmart store or at [Walmart.com/Auto](https://www.walmart.com/Auto)

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