



Battery Basics

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Battery Basics

The Heart of the Electric Golf Car

The battery pack is the heart of the electric golf car. It is surprising how little attention is paid to the replacement and maintenance of the batteries. In today's market, it is no surprise that many people use cost as a primary deciding factor when buying batteries. However cheaper does not equal better. A quality made battery will have a life span up to 4 times longer than a typical "inexpensive" battery. In the end, a cheaper battery will cost more.

Evaluate Battery Quality by Weight

It is necessary to evaluate the battery you are buying. The lead content of the battery is directly proportionate to the run time and life span of the battery. To assess the quality of a battery, start with the overall weight. A good quality 12 volt golf car battery will weigh at least 82 pounds. Many of the less expensive batteries weigh closer to 60 pounds (multiply by 4 batteries equals an 88 pound difference for the whole set). To shed weight for a person is a good thing; for a golf car, battery weight loss is not so good. To skimp that much lead relates to a much shorter battery run time and life span. Many other factors separate quality batteries from the pack; without cutting them open, it is much more difficult to assess the points. The weight gives you a good idea if it is a quality battery or not.



Battery Compatibility with Your Golf Car.

Many golf cars have a computer that operates the charger. The computer regulates how batteries charge and what their charging algorithm is set to. Not all batteries charge at the same algorithm, so

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it is important to verify what batteries are compatible with your car. Incorrect charge cycles shorten the lifespan of the battery pack.

Maintaining the Life of Your Battery Pack

Poor maintenance shortens the life span of a battery pack. Most golf cars contain “flooded” batteries, filled with a liquid called electrolyte (acid). This type of battery requires maintenance. Batteries consume this liquid as they are charged and discharged. This liquid changes into gas, venting out through the caps. Batteries must have this liquid replenished with distilled water only. The more use and charging, the more often the water level needs adjusting.

Battery Safety

Keep in mind when you are handling battery caps that they do have acid on them and will eat away anything they drip on or touch. There are products you can buy to eliminate the need for handling the battery caps, and to make battery maintenance easier. Battery maintenance is hazardous, wear safety glasses and gloves. Batteries give off gas while charging and discharging. This gas is explosive, have plenty of ventilation while charging.

Summary

- Quality batteries will last longer and cost you less over the life of the battery pack.
- Make sure you use batteries that are compatible with your golf car.
- Poor battery maintenance equates to short battery life span and performance.
- Battery maintenance is hazardous. Wear safety glasses & gloves, and charge in a ventilated area.

Phone: (248)779-4096

Michigan Tournament Fleet, Inc.



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