

Replacing a boat battery

1. Turn off your boat engine.
2. Shut off you main 12volt breaker or switch
3. Wear your gloves because the battery stuff is corrosive, and be sure the battery tray is completely dry before taking the next step!
4. Remove the cables from the battery terminals.

Use an adjustable wrench to first loosen the nut and bolt on the clamp that holds the battery cable on the negative terminal. (That's the post with the little “-” or “**NEG**” **Black** cable on it.)

Now loosen the cable with “+” or “**POS**” **Red Cable**. Remove the cable from the post and lay it out of your way. Then remove the other cable from its post and lay that aside.

5. Remove whatever devices are holding the battery in place.

When you're removing a bolt or screw, after you've loosened it with a tool, turn it the last few turns by hand so that you have a firm grip on it when it comes loose and it doesn't drop and roll into obscurity.

6. Remove the battery.
7. When the battery is free, lift it out of its seat and place it out of your way.
8. If the tray on which the battery was standing has deposits on it, clean it with a little baking soda dissolved in water.
9. Place the new battery on the tray.
10. Make sure it is facing in the same direction as the old one was.
11. Replace the devices that held the old battery in place.
12. Try to wiggle the battery to make sure it's completely secure.
13. Replace the battery cables on the terminals in reverse order from which you removed them.

Sand them or clean them to get a good contact

The **+ positive Red cable** goes back first. Make certain that the clamps holding the cables on the battery terminals are gripping the posts tightly.

Now put the **- negative Black cable** on and tighten. Make certain that the clamps holding the cables on the battery terminals are gripping the posts tightly.

14. Take the old battery to a recycling center that accepts batteries.

Batteries are filled with a toxic, corrosive liquid and must be disposed of properly. What's more, old batteries are usually rebuilt into new ones, so just throwing one in the trash is doubly bad for the environment. If you have your new battery installed when you buy it, the shop will recycle the old one for you. They'll probably want to charge a few dollars for this service, but try to negotiate it into the price. You also can call your local recycling center for a referral.