

# Will lead-acid batteries go bad if left unused at home

How long can a lead acid battery last?

Charge a lead acid battery before storing. Lead acid batteries can be stored for up to 2 years. It is generally advisable to periodically monitor the battery voltage and charge it when it falls below 70 percent state-of-charge (SoC); however, lead batteries typically have brand specific readings.

Do lead acid batteries degrade over time?

All rechargeable batteries degrade over time. Lead acid and sealed lead acid batteries are no exception. The question is, what exactly happens that causes lead acid batteries to die? This article assumes you have an understanding of the internal structure and make up of lead acid batteries.

What happens if a lead acid battery is flooded?

If lead acid batteries are cycled too deeply their plates can deform. Starter batteries are not meant to fall below 70% state of charge and deep cycle units can be at risk if they are regularly discharged to below 50%. In flooded lead acid batteries this can cause plates to touch each other and lead to an electrical short.

What happens if a lead acid battery doesn't start a car?

Just because a lead acid battery can no longer power a specific device, does not mean that there is no energy left in the battery. A car battery that won't start the engine, still has the potential to provide plenty of fireworkssould you short the terminals.

What happens if you buckle a lead acid battery?

In both flooded lead acid and absorbent glass mat batteries the buckling can cause the active paste that is applied to the plates to shed off, reducing the ability of the plates to discharge and recharge. Acid stratification occurs in flooded lead acid batteries which are never fully recharged.

How often does a sealed lead acid battery discharge?

A sealed lead acid battery generally discharges 3% every month. If a SLA battery is allowed to discharge to a certain point, you may end up with sulfation and render your battery useless, never getting the intended life span out of the battery. Sulfation is when the electrolyte in the sealed lead acid battery begins to break down.

I fitted a new battery at the time, but left it empty, that is with no acid. If it was filled with battery acid now, would it still hold charge, or would it be useless after being left so long unfilled?

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In summary, lead acid batteries have a limited lifespan and can go bad due to sulfation, overcharging, undercharging, exposure to extreme temperatures, and physical damage. ...

Batteries freeze more easily when kept in a discharged state. As noted, freezing temperatures can adversely alter the cell's molecular structure. At the other extreme, heat hastens the self-discharge rate and can create stress. Lead acid batteries. Charge a lead acid battery before storing. Lead acid batteries can be stored for up to 2 years ...

Sealed lead acid batteries need to be kept above 70% State of Charge (SoC). If you are storing your batteries at the ideal temperature and humidity levels then a general rule of thumb would be to recharge the batteries every six months. ...

Freezing: If a lead-acid battery is left unused in a cold environment, the electrolyte can freeze, which can cause the battery case to crack and leak. To prevent these issues, it is important to store lead-acid batteries properly when they are not in use.

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For lead-acid batteries, it's essential to store them fully charged. Lead-acid batteries gradually lose their charge over time - known as self discharge - so make sure to check their charge level every few months. As a reference, if your lead-acid battery falls below 12.5V it should be recharged as soon as possible to avoid any long-term ...

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