

I have written in depth articles on RV batteries in the past because it is a subject that RVers are interested in and a subject RVers have problems with. It always seems like the batteries on your RV are going dead for no apparent reason. For the most part this is because there are several items in an RV that will continue to slowly drain the coach battery even when you think everything is turned off. One of the leading culprits for battery drain is the LP gas leak detector. On many RVs the LP gas leak detector is designed to operate all of the time.

There are other items that we overlook sometimes like the power booster for the TV antenna, a clock that operates off of 12-volts or maybe the refrigerator was left on in the gas mode. If your RV is equipped with a battery disconnect switch make sure it is in the OFF position when you're not using the RV or when it is in storage. If your RV is not equipped with a battery disconnect switch you can purchase a battery disconnect that installs directly to the battery. When you're not using the RV you simply lift the lever up and it disconnects all 12-volt power going to the RV.

The 2 most common causes for RV battery failure are undercharging and overcharging. Undercharging is a result of batteries being repeatedly discharged and not fully recharged between cycles. If a battery is not recharged the sulfate material that attaches to the discharged portions of the plates begins to harden into crystals. Over time this sulfate cannot be converted back into active plate material and the battery is ruined. This also occurs when a battery remains discharged for an extended period of time. Sulfation is the number one cause of battery failure. The second leading cause of battery failure is overcharging. Overcharging batteries results in severe water loss and plate corrosion. The good news is both of these problems are avoidable.

In the past I would always test my RV batteries to determine the state of charge and put them on the battery charger between trips. I recently discovered an even better and easier way to keep your RV batteries charged, maintained and conditioned. It called the Battery Minder and it's available at [www.vdcelectronis.com](http://www.vdcelectronis.com)

Properly charging your RV batteries needs to be done in stages. The Battery Minder is a three stage maintenance charger, which means it will keep the battery fully charged but never overcharge the battery. It also conditions sulphated batteries, actually reversing the primary cause for battery failure.

When you're not using your RV simply hook the Battery Minder up to the battery and plug it in. You can either leave the battery in the RV or remove it. You rarely need to add water because it will never boil out the electrolyte.

If you always seem to have problems with your RV batteries a battery disconnect switch and the Battery Minder can solve many of your problems. If you would like to learn more about your RV batteries check out my RV Batteries 101 article.

Happy Camping,

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