

Battery MAINTENANCE

Take the confusion out of camper trailer power systems with these simple expert tips



Keep your battery in good condition and you'll be able to relax worry free every weekend

I've had a few mates that steered me away from buying a cheap deep cycle battery, so I bit the bullet and spent good money on a 120Ah AGM battery. It's a fairly big investment for me, so I was wondering if you had any tips on how to extend the life of it?
George, Swansea

Like other batteries, deep cycle AGM batteries have a limited number of cycles. However, you can capitalise on these cycles by maintaining your battery. Generally, a full

battery "cycle" is complete when its charge falls below 50 per cent, so it's important to limit the amount of times a battery will fall below this mark. If you charge your batteries when they have 65 per cent remaining capacity, they have not completed a full cycle and will not become deeply discharged. Your battery will complete more cycles, last longer and you'll get increased reliability and performance. Without regular maintenance batteries will become deeply discharged and have a shorter lifespan.



It was only after I installed an auxiliary battery in the camper trailer that I realised my mistake. It's in a convenient spot to run wiring to my accessories, but getting in to it to check voltage and do maintenance is going to be an issue! Before I go ahead and move it, I was just wanting to know if there is anything out there that'll make it easier to know how my batteries are doing?
Michael and Kaitlyn, Bunbury

Hi guys, we get this one all the time, and a simple fix is to install a quality battery meter or monitor. Battery meters range from a standard volt meter that will check the status of your battery to more sophisticated models that

can provide accurate calculations about your power use. The Baintech 12V LCD Volt Meter is a good base model. It's a simple and affordable product that gives you a reading of the current voltage of your battery.

To know more about your system a Volt/Amp Meter will display your battery's voltage and the current being drawn by your appliances. A product like the Baintech Volt/Amp Meter will give you this information in real time to help you estimate when your battery needs a charge.

To have complete control over your battery system a more comprehensive monitor will calculate your power use, making it easy to assess the load on the system and prevent

your batteries from dying. Something like the VICTRON BMV 702 is an example of the ultimate monitor. On it, you can see your battery's state of charge, the percentage of energy consumed by the battery and the amount of time you can continue to support the current load.



A good battery charge will let you both charge while driving and with solar when you get to camp



G'day guys, after building my own trailer from scratch, I've got it to a point where it's close to going on its maiden trip! However, we're aiming to head a fair way west and need to be able to keep the batteries charged and beers cold for the trip. I was hoping you could point out a few things I should be looking for in a dual battery charger?
Kerry, Bendigo

There are a few ways you can go here Kerry. If you'd like to charge your batteries as you drive then you need a DC to DC charger. A good example of this type of charger is the

CTEK D250S Dual smart charger. It's a 20A, five-step fully automatic charger that will maintain and condition your batteries using alternator or solar power. That means you can charge your auxiliary battery all day while driving, and once the vehicle is off and parked, your solar can take over and the battery up.

With state-of-the-art technology, the VICTRON Blue Power 10 Amp charger will also maintain your batteries at home. It's a five-step automatic charger that has an 'adaptive' feature, which will automatically optimise the charging process.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Bainbridge Technologies are DC and AC power system experts, with more than 25 years of experience developing reliable, world class power systems. For information on how you can set your trailer up with the ideal battery system, head to www.baintech.com.au/campersystem or call 1300 224 683.