

Marine Battery Storage Safety

The safe storage of marine batteries (or “deep cycle” batteries) is essential in eliminating and minimizing hazards. Discharged batteries that are not stored correctly can cause injuries as well as damage to property. What follows are best practice guidelines for ensuring the safe storage of your batteries.

-) Batteries should be fully charged before being stored. Check the percentage of your battery’s “state-of-charge” to ensure that it is at least 90%-100% charged.
-) The charge of the stored battery should be checked at least once every three months. Keep a written log (including names, times and dates) to record when battery charges were last checked. Batteries that are discovered to be below the full charge should be re-charged.
-) In addition to checking the batteries’ charge, batteries should also be inspected at least once every three months to ensure that they are free of build-up and leakage. When the state-of-charge is below 90%, build-up (i.e., the accumulation of hard lead sulfate crystals on the battery) can begin to occur, which can decrease the power of the battery.
-) Marine batteries are sensitive to extreme temperatures and could discharge if the temperature is too hot or too cold. For this reason, the temperature of the storage facility should be closely monitored to ensure that it does not rise above 80° and does not drop below 35°.
-) Ensure that the storage facility is well ventilated and dry. Do not store the batteries in areas that attract moisture or mold. Check the roof of the storage facility to ensure that there are no leaks, and ensure that no areas of the facility allow for water intrusion.
-) Ensure that the storage facility is properly secured to prevent unauthorized access. Implement a keyed access or card scan system if necessary. Batteries should be in an area in the facility where they will not attract attention.
-) Never store the batteries on shelves that exceed five feet in height. Do not store the batteries on the ground where others could trip on them.
-) Check the storage facility at least monthly, using written checklists, to ensure that it is well lit, free from trash and debris, properly ventilated, that the locks are working properly and that none of the batteries are missing or damaged.



This fact sheet is not intended to be exhaustive. The discussion and best practices suggested herein should not be regarded as legal advice. Readers should pursue legal counsel or contact their insurance providers to gain more exhaustive advice

For additional information on this topic please contact ACWA JPIA Risk Control Department, Terry Lofing, Administrative Assistant (tlofing@acwajpia.com) or 800-231-5742