

LEISURE BATTERIES FAQS

NUMAX
PREMIUM LEISURE BATTERIES

WHAT IS A LEISURE BATTERY?

A leisure battery is used to power electrical appliances and equipment, like lights or a TV, in a motorhome or caravan. As these appliances place higher power demands on a battery, leisure batteries are specifically designed to withstand repeated deep discharge cycles.

It's important to use a leisure battery because automotive starter batteries within vehicles can't support this type of usage. If you do try to use a starter battery, you risk damaging the internal components and causing it to prematurely fail.

Which leisure battery do I need?

Choosing the best leisure battery for your caravan or motorhome is important, and there are a few factors you should consider:

- Room available: Be sure to select a battery that will fit the space in your caravan or motorhome's locker and tray.
- Watt hours: The amount of power the battery can supply when fully charged. These requirements can be calculated by working out the consumption of the accessories the battery will power, and how long you usually use them for.
- Cycle life: The number of times the battery can be discharged to 50% then fully recharged. The higher the cycle life, the more work the battery can do during its life in service. So, if you're expecting to use the battery a lot, it's best to choose a deep cycle battery.
- Capacity: The amount of power the battery has. The higher the battery's Ah rating, the more power it must support your electric appliances and equipment.

How long does a leisure battery last?

How long a leisure battery lasts will depend on many variables, and these include:

- The power requirements of a vehicle's electrical consumers
- Whether it's been used on or off grid
- Length of trips away and subsequent usage
- Usage with high-power consumers such as motor movers
- How well it has been maintained

While many presume a battery is a 'fit and forget' product it requires regular monitoring and charging, especially when not in use for long periods. Numax, a top leisure battery brand, recommends using a smart charger to greatly improve your leisure battery's service life.

How to charge a leisure battery

Most motorhomes have two different batteries: one that's used to start the vehicle's engine and a second leisure battery that powers other appliances within the motorhome.

On the other hand, caravans only have leisure batteries, and these need to be charged to ensure your motorhome or caravan receives the power it needs.

Charging a leisure battery is a simple process. For motorhomes, whenever the vehicle's engine is running, both your leisure battery and the starter battery will be charged using a split charge system. For caravans, it's also possible to charge a battery while driving but the caravan will need to be carefully wired through the tow bar into the car.

When not driving, a leisure battery will be used as the only source of power in both a caravan and motorhome. To help support this, many have on-board charging facilities that can be connected to a charging point, like you'd commonly find on a campsite.

It's also possible to charge a leisure battery using a solar maintainer. Providing a greener way to power your caravan or motorhome, solar panels come in various sizes and are also ideal for off-grid travellers who don't have easy access to charging points.

During the off season when you won't be using the battery, it's best to use a smart charger to keep the battery topped up and to monitor its condition. Before doing so, make sure you're using the correct type of charger for your battery and refer to the manufacturer's instructions. The charger then needs to be switched to the correct settings for your battery.

What is a leisure battery smart charger?

It's important to maintain your battery during the off season as all batteries lose their charge when not in use or when not being charged.

If the charge level drops too low for an extended period (12.4 volts and below), permanent internal damage may occur, damaging the battery to a point where it can't be recovered by recharging.

However, by using an intelligent smart charger specific to the battery type and technology, you can safely monitor and maintain your leisure battery when it's not in regular use.

How do you use a leisure battery smart charger?

Using a smart charger is a simple process. However, it's important to note that not all smart chargers are suitable for charging leisure batteries. If you're unsure, speak to one of our experts in-store.

First, ensure the smart charger is switched off, then connect your charger's positive connector (usually red) to your leisure battery's positive terminal.

Next, connect the negative connector (usually black) to your battery's negative terminal. Once complete, switch your smart charger on and select the correct option for your application.

Depending on the level of pre-existing charge, the charging process can take several hours. Once complete, switch your smart charger off and wait at least five minutes to allow any gasses to clear before removing the leads.