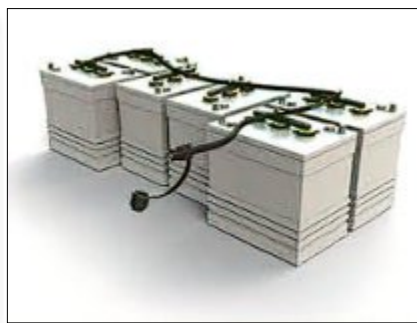
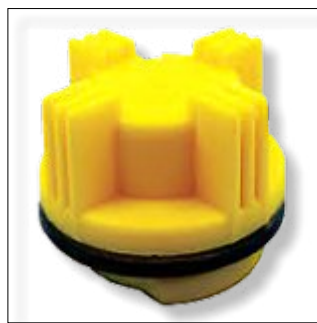


LET'S TALK BATTERIES - PART 2

So, we discussed in our last article the difference between lead acid batteries and Lithium batteries. Now we'll be making sure you get the longest life out of them. Taking care of your batteries can be cumbersome for most, while for those with light forms of OCD, a snap, and we gladly put it on our calendars as a reminder to get it done.

Whether it's a 36-volt or a 48-volt cart both need to be maintained. It starts with distilled water. But why? Why can't we just use regular tap water? Or rainwater for that matter. It's because tap water or rainwater is full of impurities which can cause damage to a flooded lead acid battery and more specifically, the plates that are inside. When you put anything other than distilled water the impurities stick to these plates like plaque on one's teeth. Over time, this also causes your batteries to not properly charge as well or last as long.



You can also overwater a battery and do harm to it as well. Most battery experts recommend only filling the batteries up to about 1/2 of an inch from the tops of the batteries plates and to also never let it get below the plates. Putting too much water in a battery can also lead to sulfation

which is bad. What is sulfation? Once again it is like plaque on your teeth. Too much can lead to weak batteries. Follow this rule: fill a 1/2 inch from the top of the plates. Ok, so how often should you check my batteries water levels? About every 60 days. Goto your local grocery store and get a gallon of distilled water and that should last you for quite some time. Different brands of battery companies use different vent caps. Some screw off for each cell and others have a quick release to check all at one time.

We have covered how to water a battery, what type of water to use, how much to water them and how often. Now on to the different watering tools out there to make life a little easier than just using a gallon jug and a funnel.

There are a variety of watering systems to keep you from worrying about the possible threat of getting acid on your hands or body, from gravity water fed systems to water filler jugs to pump systems. The only way to get around watering your batteries like a rose bush is to go *Lithium Ion*, which nets you no watering and easy stress-free ownership. Not to mention not having to deal with batteries leaking or bulging over time. Let us not bring up the fact of that odor that batteries extinguish from time to time when you go out to the garage. That is a smell that will alarm and worry most. It is a gas that escapes on occasion and is normal. No worries unless you see a substance under your golf cart.

Checking your battery cables on each battery is important in taking care of your cart's batteries. Wiggle them from time to time to make sure they are all tight. If not, your cart's batteries won't be getting a proper connection and can lead to other problems. Corrosion happens as well and making sure to check that is equally as important. There are a few factors to consider letting you know it maybe time for a new set of batteries:



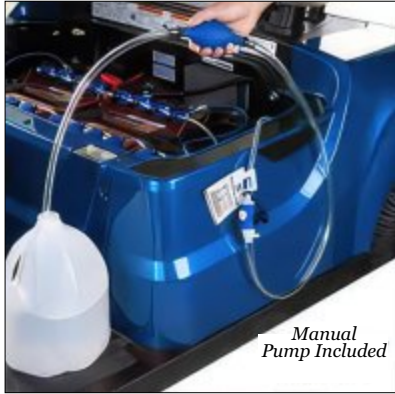
- Reduced Capacity. Is your cart not going as far as it once did? It's probably time.
- Swelling or leakage from the batteries? It's definitely time for a new set.
- Slower cart? The batteries are losing power and yes you guessed it. It's time for a new set.
- Low voltage or the warning light comes on? Could be a dead cell or bad battery in the batch. This will cause all the other batteries to overwork and will lead to them all going bad.

In the end the lead acid battery is the more affordable way of ownership when it comes to powering your cart over a lithium-Ion unit, but they all come with a cost. So, let's remember these tips as follows to keep those batteries lasting as long as possible.

Continued



- Charge your batteries regularly. Do this every time you use your cart whether it was for a casual ride to the clubhouse and back or the trek of playing 18 holes. The experts say that a battery that is used several times and not charged will not completely charge to 100% capacity. Charge your cart after every use.



Manual Pump Included



2.5 Gallon Gravity Tank

- Use distilled water only and don't let those levels get too low or over fill your batteries. Rule of thumb is 1/2 inch over the plates.
- Keep your battery terminals clean and corrosion free. Checking them regularly to ensure that batteries are charging and running properly is necessary.
- Using a proper charger to charge your batteries is necessary. If that old charger isn't working call a local shop and or go online and order a new one.
- Finally Don't overcharge your batteries or let them get to low before you do charge them.

*John Poluga
for The Magnolia News*



Jp's Custom Carts - Now Open in Green Cove Springs!

*Sales • Custom Work • Accessories
Batteries • Wheels • Tires*

**MARCH CLEANUP SPECIAL
& \$99 CHECKUP - CALL TODAY!**



901-827-0403

3236 Hwy 17 Suite #5 Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043

jpscustomcarts.com

