

IMPORTANT SEASONAL MAINTENANCE ADVICE: Fall/Winter Battery Storage Tips

When planning to store your GEM during the winter months or off-season, please take into consideration the following storage tips:

Prior to storing your vehicle for the season, make sure that your GEM is fully charged. Once your vehicle has been fully charged, turn off the Master Disconnect Switch (MDS); located under the bench seat on the passenger side for 2004-older Model vehicles, in fuse access panel of lower dash for 2005-current Model vehicles. And remember that you will need to turn the master disconnect switch back on to charge your vehicle, recommended every 30 days, to its fully charged capacity. Please refer to your GEM owner's manual for specific details regarding long-term storage of your GEM. If your vehicle is equipped with the latest model SMC (Storage Maintenance Cycle) Delta-Q brand charger unit, it will not require you to turn the MDS off during the storage period. Simply plug it in and leave it. The charger will automatically power on to maintain the batteries for you while in storage. For flooded lead acid batteries once every 7 days and for gel-type lead acid batteries once every 14 days. As long as the standard 110-Volt AC power line is dedicated and does not trip or lose power the charger will operate on its own and maintain the batteries for you.

Tips for Battery Maintenance of the GEM vehicle

One of the most important things to remember when owning a GEM is the maintenance that must be done for the batteries. After all, a gas-powered vehicle needs to have regular routine check-ups on the engine and you may be able to go months without having to worry about your car running smoothly. Yet a GEM is not a "typical" car and must have special attention, especially when caring for the batteries.

There are certain parts of the GEM the user is responsible to maintain. Did you know there are a total of six batteries in your vehicle, nine batteries in some Models (e6 & eLXD)? There are two batteries under the hood and four under the bench seat (2004-older Model vehicles), and 4 under the seat and 2 under the rear spat of 2005-current Model vehicles). Checking water levels at least once a month is a must and in very hot climates or under heavy use conditions, the levels must be checked more often. In cold weather conditions it is imperative that the batteries are kept charged so as not to harm the cells. In extreme cold weather, batteries can freeze, cracking the cases and spilling acid. A charged battery will not freeze. Using a flathead screwdriver, pry or screw off the caps of the batteries and look inside to see the water levels.

Flooded Batteries:

- Trojan brand Model 30XHS/SCS225
- Deka brand Model EV31

If the water levels are found to be low, here are some action steps to remember:

1. Charge the vehicle first, then add distilled water no higher than the bottom of the neck opening (1/2 inch above plates). **Overfilling will cause batteries to boil and spill onto the floor.**
2. The only time you should add water first is when the water level is below the plates. In this case, add water until it covers the plates, then charge, and then check the water levels again.

Check all battery connections monthly to ensure that they are tight and free of corrosion. If corrosion starts to appear, wash tops, cables and terminals of batteries with a solution of baking soda and water (1 cup baking soda per one gallon of water). Let terminals dry and then spray them with an anti-corrosion spray.

GEL Batteries:

- Deka brand Model 8G31
- Deka brand Model 8G8VGC

There is little maintenance needed for the Gel-type batteries. Keeping the terminals and connections tight and clean. It is recommended that you inspect the battery terminals at least once a month to check for corrosion and make sure that there is a tight connection between the battery cable and the battery terminal. If there is corrosion present, follow the steps for the flooded batteries above by using a baking soda and water solution, followed by applying an anti-corrosion spray to the battery terminals. This will help prevent oxidization.

If you maintain a routine of regular maintenance with the batteries, it will be guaranteed that your GEM will run smoother and more efficiently. After all, the batteries are the life of your vehicle-remember battery maintenance is a must. Keeping the batteries charged and maintained will determine the length and life of them.