



How Long Do Car Batteries Last

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Car batteries last between three and five years in most cases. Your friend in another state or a neighbor with the same model vehicle may have different experiences than you. A specific answer for how long car batteries last is impossible because of the contributing variables like how far and how often you drive.

While most car batteries need replacing after five years or less, some drivers might get 10 years of use. Protecting it from extreme temperatures and maintaining a full charge are two simple steps that can help provide a longer service life for the battery. Still, a car battery gradually deteriorates over time until it lacks the power to start the engine.

Because the potential lifespan varies, always check the battery's health as part of routine maintenance when you have an oil change, even if you aren't experiencing problems. Meanwhile, be aware of the obvious signs and any small hints of trouble.

Don't delay with car battery replacement if yours isn't holding a charge. Nobody wants their car not to start when away from home and need to get back any more than when at home needing to get to work. Perhaps more importantly, prolonged driving with a bad battery can damage the car's alternator. That alternator replacement will force you to leave your vehicle with a mechanic, have the potential for a \$700 bill, and still need a new battery.

Replacing a dead car battery often costs \$250 or less, and installation is straightforward. Your local auto parts store will help ensure your new battery is the correct type and size for your vehicle. When you purchase it from them, the shop's technicians usually install the battery in the store parking lot at no charge.



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