

Car Care Corner

Will Your Vehicle Start This Winter?

Check Your Battery For Added Insurance

(NAPSA)—It's human nature to take the small things in life for granted, especially when those things are working well. For example, the average driver probably gives little thought to the battery under the hood of his or her vehicle. Little thought, that is, until this power pack fails to function properly, leaving the driver inconvenienced at best, or possibly even stranded. Why is a battery so important?

Your car may not run on batteries, but a battery is still a necessary part of your car's system. The battery powers the cranking motor to start the vehicle. It also provides auxiliary power when the engine isn't running. With the engine off and the key in the "on" position, many components, such as the chimes, radio, instrument cluster, and headlights operate off the battery's power.

As cold weather approaches, it's particularly important to show some interest in your car battery. The colder the weather, the harder the battery has to work. If a battery is weak—because the headlights were left on, because of charging system problems, or just because it has just outlived its usefulness—it may not have enough power to start the vehicle.

If you want to check out your battery, shine the headlights against your garage wall while cranking the engine. If the headlights dim, the battery and charging system may need to be looked at by a professional.

There are other ways to see if a battery might need to be serviced or even replaced. Conduct a quick visual inspection to ensure that battery terminals are clean. Cor-



Make sure your battery is charged before you set out.

roded terminals will hinder the free flow of battery power through the electrical system. To clean terminals, use a wire brush dipped in baking soda and water. Another sign of a possibly weak battery is a slow-cranking engine, particularly in cold weather. Keep a spare set of jumper cables in your trunk—you may never need to use them, but they provide peace of mind.

If a new battery is needed, Independent Service Centers that participate in AC Delco's Total Service Support program, and all GM dealerships offer a full range of products, including the Professional battery, as well as AC Delco's newly launched 60 Series car and truck batteries. The value line 60 Series carries a 60-month limited warranty on automotive batteries, including a free replacement, if needed, within the first 18 months. AC Delco 60 Series batteries are available for more than 90 percent of vehicles on the road. To find an AC Delco parts retailer or certified AC Delco Independent Service Center near you, visit acdelco.com or call 800-A-C-Delco.