

Battery Maintenance: Each end of month

Materials Required:

- distilled water – refill plastic soda bottle for easy pouring. [Gallon jug of water on shelf above pressure tank.]
- hydrometer - located in the plastic tool box (there are 2 – the easiest to use is the one with the straight black tube.]
- one bucket – half fill with Garden hose water
- paper towels – for wiping up electrolyte drips from battery surface
- plastic funnel and flashlight – helps see water levels in cells
- battery record sheets – on clipboard hanging above battery box.

Procedure:

1. Prepare bucket of water for safety rinse.
2. Put on safety glasses and rubber gloves. Remove the lid on the battery box.
3. Being careful not to touch opposite terminals, remove the cell cover of the first-battery's cells using the two levers. Set cell covers aside.
4. Squeeze air out of hydrometer bulb and insert the tube in the first (A) cell of Battery #1.
 - Hold the hydrometer vertical in the cell. Squeeze and release the rubber bulb to fill the hydrometer and read the arrow indication without lifting it from the cell. (Make sure the hydrometer is full of fluid when reading the arrow indication)
 - Squeeze battery liquid back into the cell.
5. Record the cell reading: **High, Medium, Low** - on the record sheet. Asterisk any **Low** cell reading. [Report to garden managers if a cell registers Low [RED or Low area] on two successive maintenance dates.]
6. If water is low in a cell, add distilled water using the soda bottle and funnel. **Electrolyte fluid level should cover the battery plate by about 1/2 inch.** Record if you added water [Yes or No].
7. Wipe up all liquid on the battery surface with paper towel. Replace the cells cover.
8. Repeat the procedure for each cell of the four batteries. After reading the last cell rinse the hydrometer in the bucket of water by squeezing the bulb in and out several times. Put used towels in a plastic bag to discard.
9. Initial the data line of record sheet.

NOTE: Check the battery tops weekly or when convenient between maintenance, to keep them dry and cleaned off. This will prevent corrosion of the terminal leads. Use both the terminal cleaner spray and corrosion prevention spray when cleaning the leads. Find these spray cans in the bin containing the paper towels. Caution – make sure cell covers are on before using either of the spray materials.