

Vehicle Batteries

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| Applicable to | Operational Drivers |

Several near misses have been reported of vehicle batteries overheating, on one instance the battery exploded whilst in transit covering the vehicle interior with battery acid.

Most of these incidents have occurred due to vehicle users overloading the battery which affects the lifespan, lowers its efficiency and in extreme cases as shown below lead to the battery exploding. Most batteries contain sulfuric acid (electrolyte) which is highly corrosive. An incident of this nature could lead to serious injury.



To prevent further incidents, users must ensure vehicle batteries are not overloaded.

Key points to remember:

| DO: | DO NOT: |
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| Switch the inverter off when the vehicle is not in use | Leave the auxiliary heater on unnecessarily |
| <u>Only</u> use approved low wattage microwave and travel kettle | Overload the inverter or plug in extra sockets |
| Ensure the engine is running when using the inverter to power microwave/kettle | Block the air vents covering the battery cover with buckets or clothing |
| Switch off and unplug tool batteries once they are fully charged | Leave vehicle internal lights and other auxiliary electrics switched on over night |
| Report any smell of 'rotten egg' or burning to the garage immediately. | Ignore burning smells or concerns you have about your ancillary electrics |

