



Beating The Off-Road Black And Blues

Outdoor adventures, including camping, fishing and off-road exploring, often involve getting to remote locations in a sport utility vehicle (SUV). Not only are the numbers of SUVs exploding, but so are the accessories running in them—take for example the electrical winches, spotlights, fog lights, stereo systems, TVs and navigation devices that accompany the suburban camper and tailgater.

With all the additional electrical demands and places we take these vehicles, SUVs require heavy duty batteries with extra punch and reserve capacity. When it's time to replace the original battery, the experts at Exide Technologies—manufacturer of the Champion® Trailblazer and Exide NASCAR Select® heavy-duty batteries—recommend consumers look for batteries that are specifically manufactured to be vibration resistant *and* powerful enough to support the extra demands of today's weekend explorers.

If you could take a look inside the battery, you'd see a series of lead plates or grids covered with a lead paste. Whether you're ruggedly off-roading or navigating the city streets' bumps and potholes, your battery is being jolted and jostled. If it can't take the vibration, the paste on those lead grids sheds and falls to the bottom of the battery where it can cause electrical shorts. What does that mean to the adventure *and* the battery? A premature end to both.

It also means you should know a little about the battery under your SUV's hood. Vibration is more damaging to a battery than either heat or cold, so to take the beat out of vibration, the grids in vibration-resistant batteries are placed inside envelopes that separate them from each other and hold the paste against the lead plates. And, those plates and envelope separators are anchored to the bottom of the battery case by a polypropylene bonding material that helps resist the rocking and rolling caused by rocky trails and bumpy streets.

The product label also can guide battery selection. Look for a "vibration resistant" statement on the label. The Exide proprietary alloy also has proven to provide additional protection against plate shedding and offers superior performance and longer life in both high heat and extreme cold weather. Finally, a battery with a case and cover of durable, polypropylene further reduces vibration damage.

So, even if you're sitting in traffic and not blazing new trails, today's sometimes bumpy road conditions require a battery that not only starts the vehicle but withstands all the extras we put in front of and under it.

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