

JUMP-STARTING (BOOSTING) A VEHICLE BATTERY

Jump-starting a vehicle may seem straightforward, but doing it the wrong way can lead to serious injuries and significant equipment damage.

Incidents like battery explosions, acid burns to the eyes and skin, electrical fires, and damage to vehicles and equipment can all happen if a battery is boosted without following the proper procedure. Often these incidents occur when someone rushes, skips steps or overlooks basic safety precautions.

BEFORE YOU BOOST – STOP AND CHECK:

- STOP AND CHECK
- CORRECT WAY TO JUMP
- AFTER THE VEHICLE STARTS



BC Forest Safety

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JUMP-STARTING (BOOSTING) A VEHICLE BATTERY



BEFORE YOU BOOST – STOP AND CHECK

- Wear eye protection if you have it.
- Make sure the parking brake is set on both vehicles.
- Turn both engines off.
- Turn off lights, radios, heaters and anything else drawing power.
- Inspect the dead battery - **DO NOT BOOST** if it's cracked, swollen, frozen or leaking.

STEPS TO JUMP-STARTING A VEHICLE

Step 1 – Position the vehicles

- Park the vehicles close together but not touching.
- Make sure the cables can reach each battery safely.

Step 2 – Identify the terminals

- **Positive (+) is red.**
- **Negative (-) is black.**

Step 3 – Connect the cables in this exact order

1. **Red clamp → Positive (+) terminal on the DEAD battery.**
2. **Red clamp → Positive (+) terminal on the GOOD battery.**
3. **Black clamp → Negative (-) terminal on the GOOD battery.**
4. **Black clamp → Attach to clean, unpainted metal on the DEAD vehicle (on engine block or frame — NOT to the battery).**

Step 4 – Start the donor vehicle

- Let it run for a few minutes.

Step 5 – Start the dead vehicle

- If it doesn't start, wait a minute and try again.
- Do NOT crank the engine continuously.

Step 6 – Disconnect the cables in reverse order and make sure the clamps don't touch each other

1. Remove the black clamp from engine ground.
2. Remove the black clamp from donor battery.
3. **Remove the red clamp from donor battery.**
4. **Remove the red clamp from boosted battery.**

AFTER THE VEHICLE STARTS

- Let it run or drive for **20 minutes** or longer to recharge the battery.
- If it repeatedly needs boosting, the battery or charging system likely needs repair.

REMEMBER:

Always follow the exact connection order. Never rush and never jump-start a damaged battery. When in doubt—stop and ask!

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