

Battery Testing Procedure

With DVM (Digital Volt Meter)

When testing any electrical system **ALWAYS START YOUR TESTING AT THE BATTERY**. ****WARNING**** Batteries give off hydrogen gas constantly. Hydrogen gas is highly explosive. Always wear safety glasses or goggles and use caution when working with batteries.

Step 1: Open Circuit Voltage Test

Before you can properly test any battery it must be at **full charge**. You can verify the state of charge two ways:

The simplest test is done with a **digital multimeter**..

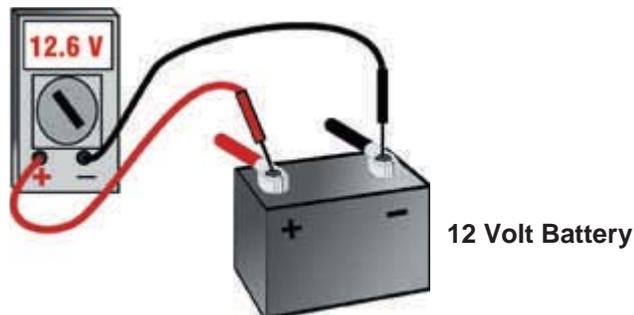
The other test involves the use of a **hydrometer**.

Using the **digital multimeter** to verify the state of charge:

A fully charged 12 volt battery will read at least 12.6 volts (2.1 volts per cell) on the multimeter when connected as shown below.

Open Circuit Volts	Percent of Charge
11.7	0%
12	25%
12.2	50%
12.4	75%
12.6 or More	100%

Digital multimeter will read 12.6 volts on a fully charged battery.



Connect the digital multimeter to the battery terminals. If your reading is 12.4 or below you must **recharge the battery before testing**.