

DODGE

2000-05 Neon

PRECAUTIONS

Warning: The battery is vented to release excess hydrogen gas that is created when the battery is being charged or discharged. However, even with these vents, hydrogen gas can collect in or around the battery. If hydrogen gas is exposed to flame or sparks, it may ignite. Do not smoke, use flame, or create sparks near the battery. Personal injury and vehicle damage may result. The battery contains sulfuric acid, which is poisonous and caustic. Avoid contact with skin, eyes, or clothing. In the event of contact, flush with water and call a physician immediately. Keep out of reach of children.

Warning: To protect the hands from battery acid, a suitable pair of heavy duty rubber gloves, not the household type, should be worn when removing or servicing a battery. Safety glasses also should be worn. Remove metallic jewelry worn on hands or wrists to avoid injury by accidental arcing of battery current.

Warning: If the battery shows signs of freezing, leaking or loose posts, do not test, assist-boost, or charge. The battery may arc internally and explode. Personal injury and/or vehicle damage may result.

It is important that the battery, starting system, and charging system be thoroughly tested and inspected any time a battery needs to be charged or replaced. The cause of abnormal discharge, over charging or early battery failure must be corrected before a battery is replaced or returned to service.

The battery Group Size number, the Cold Cranking Amperage (CCA) rating, and the Reserve Capacity (RC) rating or Ampere-Hours (AH) rating can be found on the original equipment battery label. Be certain that a replacement battery has the correct Group Size number, as well as CCA and RC or AH ratings that equal or exceed the original equipment specification for the vehicle being serviced.

BATTERY Removal

A single 12-volt battery is standard factory-installed equipment on this model. All of the components of the battery system are located within the engine compartment of the vehicle.

1. Verify that ignition switch and all accessories are "OFF."

2. Open hood.
3. Disconnect and isolate battery ground cable first, then positive cable.
4. Remove thermal guard from battery.
5. Remove retaining bolt, and remove battery hold down bracket.
6. Lift battery out of battery tray and remove from vehicle.

Installation

1. Install thermal guard on new battery.
2. Position battery in battery tray.
3. Position battery hold down bracket, and install bracket retaining bolt. **Torque** retaining bolt to 17 ± 2 ft. lbs.
4. Connect battery positive cable first then battery ground cable to battery. Tighten battery clamp nuts securely.

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