

Exercise caution in jump-starting

AMOTORIST could find it expensive and dangerous to use the wrong procedures when jump-starting a dead battery, AAA Michigan said.

"Before attempting to jump-start a battery, car owners should consult their owner's manual for specific instructions," said Paul Gliesman, AAA Michigan Emergency Road Service manager.

"Improper procedures can lead to explosions, serious damage to the automobile's electrical system and personal injury."

Gliesman advises motorists to wear safety glasses and remove all jewelry to avoid the possibility of unwanted sparks when working near the battery. No smoking or open flames should be allowed near the automobile when trying to jump-start; clothing and hands should be kept away from moving parts under the car's hood.

Before hooking up the cables, the motorist should inspect the battery for cracks or bulges. The battery posts should be cleared of acid build-up with a paste solution of baking soda and water.

TO JUMP-START the car, AAA Michigan advises motorists to follow these procedures:

- Position the cars so they are close enough for jumper cables to be connected but not touching. Automatic-transmission cars should be in park. Manual-transmission cars should be in neutral. Be sure the parking brake is set and the ignition and accessories are off.

- Connect one end of the positive cable to the positive terminal of the good battery.

- Attach the other end of the positive cable to the positive terminal of the disabled battery.

- Connect one end of the negative cable to the negative terminal of the good battery.

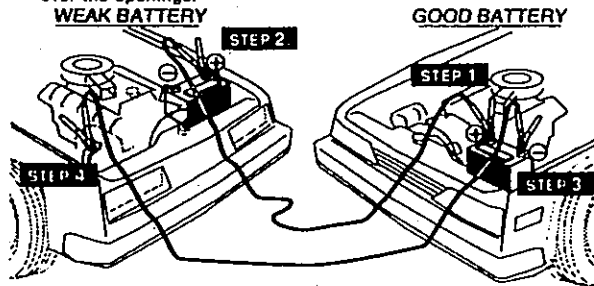
- Attach the other end of the negative to a good ground such as a bolt on the engine or other unpainted, metallic surface on the car with the dead battery. Do not connect the negative cable to the negative terminal of the dead battery.

- Start the engine on the car providing the jump. When trying to start on disabled car, don't crank the starter for more than 20 seconds. If it doesn't start in 20 seconds, wait two minutes before trying again.

- When the disabled car is running, disconnect the jumper cables in the reverse order from which they were connected.

How to jump start your car safely

AAA Michigan warns that jump-starting a car with a weak battery can be dangerous if proper procedures are not followed. Before attaching booster cables, make sure both cars are in "park" and not touching each other. Turn off the ignitions and all electrical accessories. If the "dead" battery has water caps, remove them and place a damp cloth over the openings.

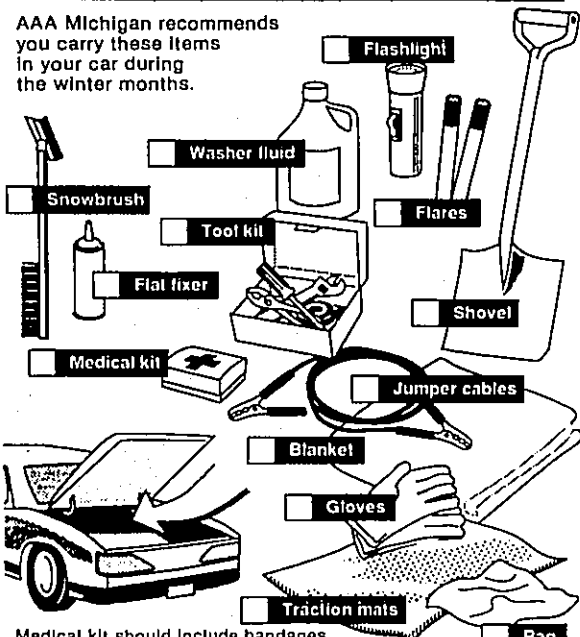


- **STEP 1.** Connect one end of the positive cable to the positive terminal of the good battery.
- **STEP 2.** Attach the other end of the positive cable to the positive terminal of the disabled battery.
- **STEP 3.** Connect one end of the negative cable to the negative terminal of the good battery.
- **STEP 4.** Attach the other end of the negative to a good ground, such as a bolt on the engine or other unpainted, metal surface of the disabled car, as far from the battery as possible.
- **START** the healthy car's engine and let it run for several minutes before starting the disabled car. To remove the cables, reverse the order above.



Winter Driving Readiness Kit

AAA Michigan recommends you carry these items in your car during the winter months.



Medical kit should include bandages, cotton, antiseptic and scissors.

OTHER ITEMS: Extra fan and alternator belts, extra antifreeze, tire chains, rope, jack, lugwrench, fire extinguisher and food.



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