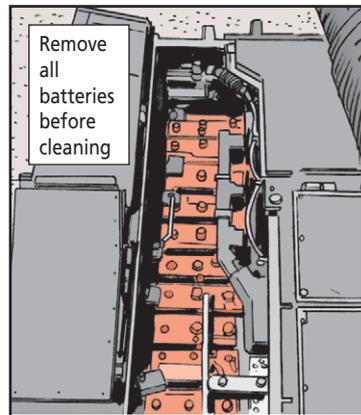


Ignoring the batteries in your tank is bad business, crewmen. Neglect leads to corrosion, corrosion to damaged cables and damaged cables to a tank that's got no get-up-and-go!

So inspect the batteries during PMCS and report any corrosion to your mechanic.

Mechanics, Pages 3-16 through 3-24 of TM 9-6140-200-14, *Operator's, Unit, Direct Support and General Support Maintenance Manual for Lead-acid Batteries* (Sep 98), have the complete scoop on cleaning and maintaining batteries. If you get a report of corrosion, remove the batteries according to the vehicle TM and get started.

Make sure you clean the battery, battery cables, battery box, and hold-down supports. Skip any of these items and you won't do a complete job.



Battery Clamps and Terminals

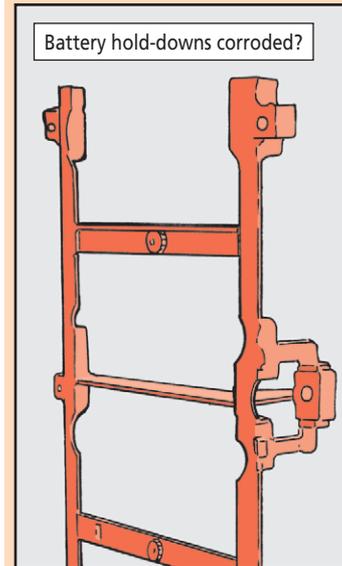
Carefully scrape away heavy corrosion from the battery clamps and terminals with battery terminal cleaner, NSN 5120-01-430-1993. Then clean with a solution of two pounds of baking soda to one gallon of water. Just be careful about getting any of the baking soda solution IN the batteries. That'll ruin 'em. Get one pound of baking soda with NSN 6810-00-264-6618 or 100 pounds with NSN 6810-00-290-5574.

Use the battery terminal brush, NSN 5120-00-926-5175, for the best results.

After cleaning, inspect and replace any clamps that will no longer fit the battery posts or whose ends touch when the clamp nut is tightened.

Battery Hold-downs

Use a wire brush, NSN 7290-00-291-5815, to clean as much corrosion, cracked paint and dirt as you can from the battery hold-downs. Then soak the hold-downs in the baking soda solution.



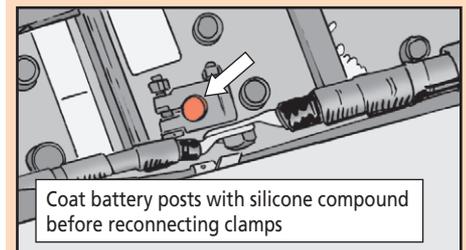
Rinse the hold-downs thoroughly. After they've dried, apply epoxy coating, NSN 8010-01-313-8702, to each of the hold-downs. You can also use bituminous coating, NSN 8030-00-290-5141, if the epoxy is not available.

Battery Tray

Wash the battery tray with the baking soda solution. Rinse thoroughly and allow it to dry. Apply a 1/32- to 1/8-in thick coating of epoxy or bituminous to the box.



When everything's dry, reinstall the batteries. Before you reconnect the battery clamps, put a light coat of silicone compound on the tops and sides of each of the battery posts. When applied, this special compound runs down around the battery post and terminal to completely seal out moisture.



Get a 1-pt can with NSN 8040-01-331-7134 or a 3-oz tube with NSN 8040-01-331-7133.