



# How to Replace a Corroded Car Battery Terminal

This guide will teach you how to safely replace a corroded terminal on your car battery.

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## INTRODUCTION

Is your car having trouble starting? Is there corrosion build-up on your terminals, preventing a proper connection? This handy guide will help you remove the troublesome terminal and replace it with a brand new one.



### TOOLS:

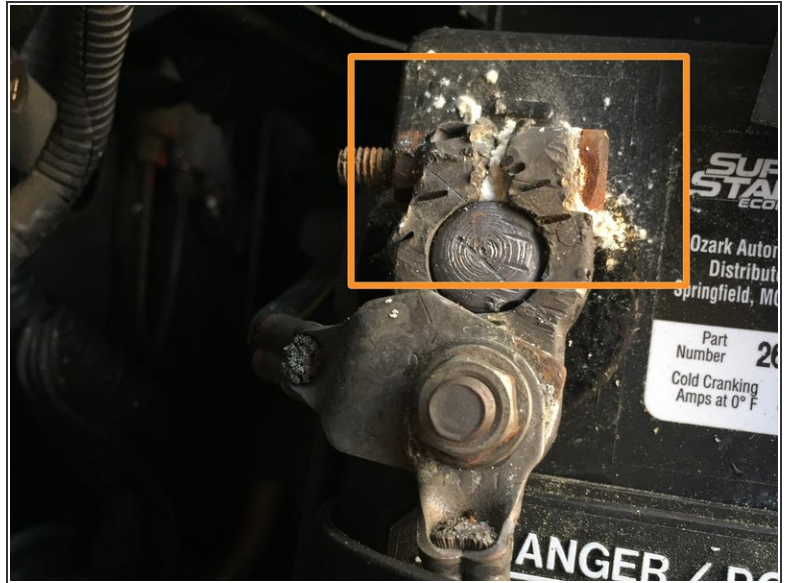
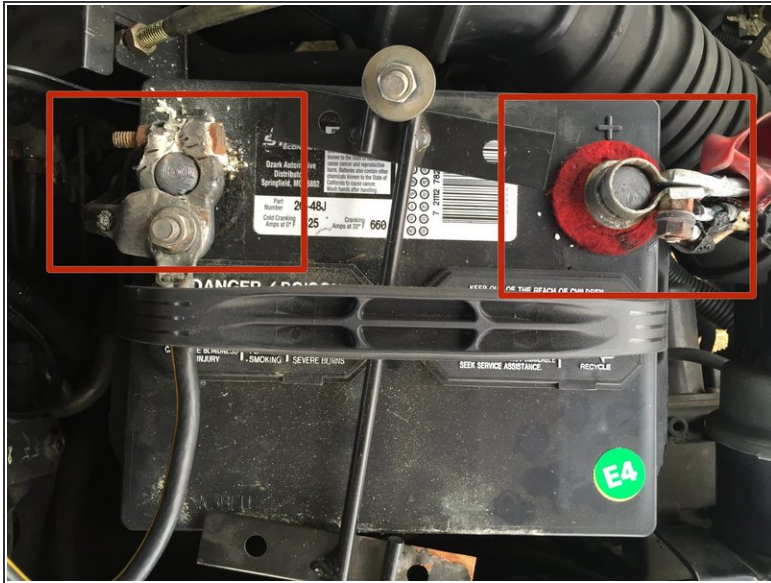
- [Shop Towels or Rags](#) (1)
- [Adjustable Wrench](#) (1)



### PARTS:

- [Car Battery Terminal](#) (1)

## Step 1 — Car Battery Terminal

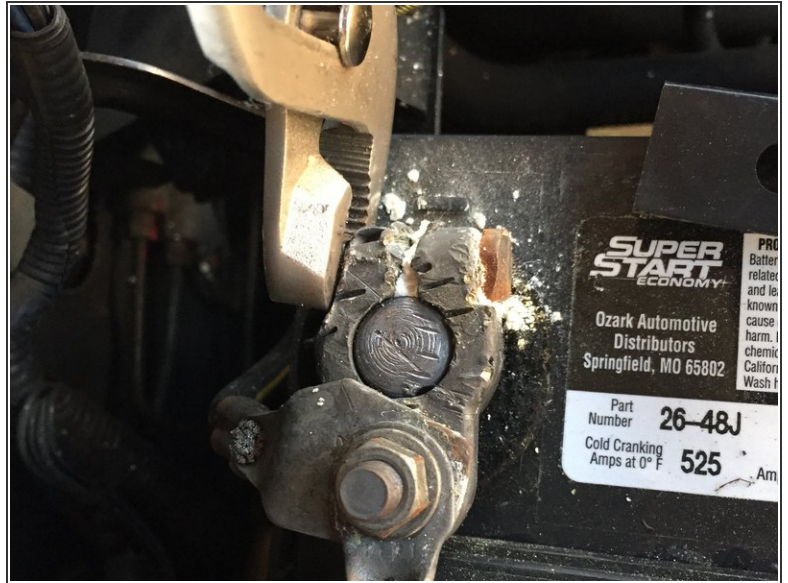


**⚠ Remember to remove your car key from the ignition and shut off the car before performing this guide.**

- Locate the terminals on the top of the car battery. Next to each terminal is a positive(+) or negative(-) sign, indicating the charge.
- The positive terminal looks to be in working order, but the negative end has a lot of corrosion buildup. This terminal needs to be replaced.



## Step 2



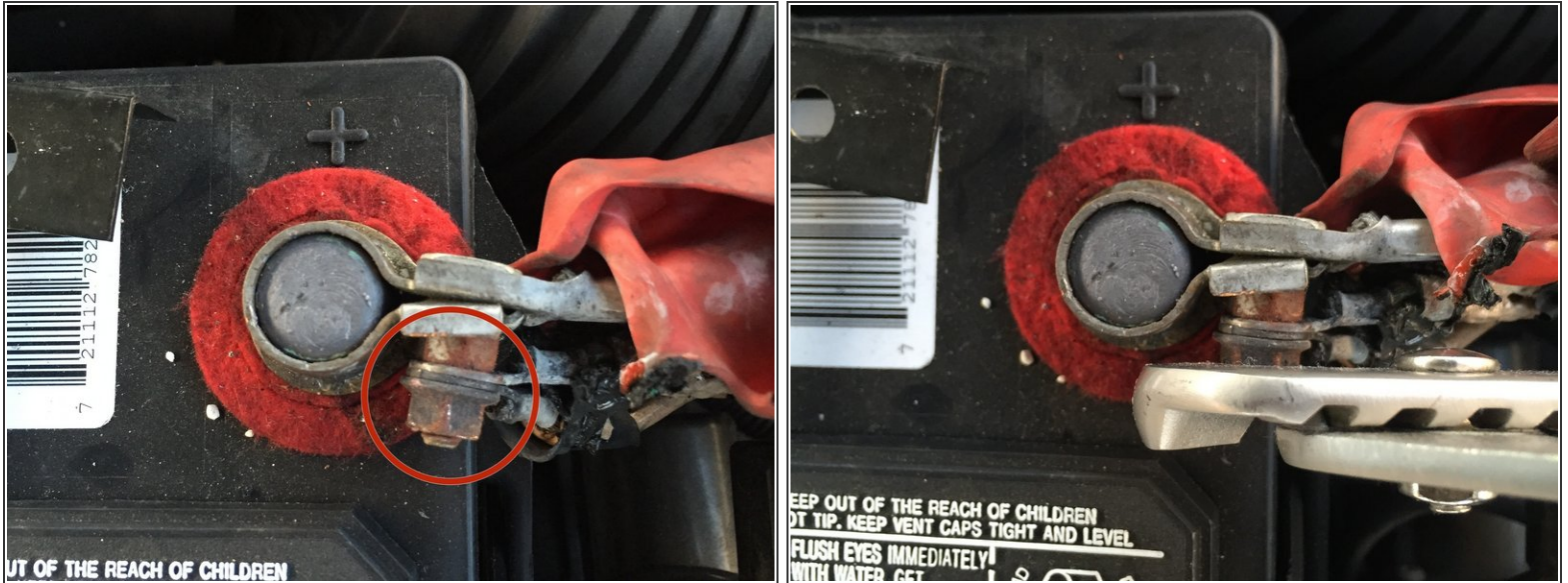
- Find the nut located on the side of the terminal.
- Using an adjustable wrench, rotate the nut counterclockwise to loosen it.
- ① Use an appropriately-sized wrench or socket, not channel locks as shown in the photo.
- ① You do not need to loosen the nut all the way off the bolt, but just enough to loosen the terminal's grip on the node.

### Step 3



- ⚠ **Always remember to remove the negative terminal first before the positive terminal.** This will prevent shorting to the ground and possibly causing shock or a fire.
- Carefully use a rag to lift up the terminal off of the battery node.
- ⚠ Be cautious when handling battery corrosion, as it can irritate the skin and is harmful if it comes in contact with your eyes.
- Place the terminal on a rag or towel and **make sure it doesn't come in contact with the battery node.**

## Step 4



- On the positive terminal, locate the nut along the side.
- Using the wrench, rotate the nut counterclockwise.
- ⓘ You do not need to fully loosen the nut off the bolt, but just enough for the terminal to be easily removed from the node.



## Step 5



- Using a rag, carefully remove the positive terminal from the battery node.
- Place the terminal on a rag or towel, and make sure it does not come into contact with the battery node.

## Step 6



- On the negative terminal, locate the nut on the side facing upwards.
- Using the wrench, rotate the nut counterclockwise and remove it from the bolt.

## Step 7



- Take the wire plate on top and remove it carefully from the bolt.
- At this point, it is fine to handle the metal plate with your hands since the terminals are disconnected from the battery and there is nothing completing the circuit.
- Remove the bottom wire plate from the bolt, placing it carefully to the side.

## Step 8



- Set aside the old battery terminal, and replace it with the new one.
- Replace the wire plates in the order they were taken off.
  - Although it is not necessary that the plates be placed in the same order again, it is generally a good idea to go with the order that it came in.



## Step 9



- Place the flat washer and the screw-on head that came with the battery terminal onto the vertical bolt.
- Tighten the head clockwise and make sure the wire plates are secured.
- ⓘ Not all battery terminal packs come with a washer and screw-on head. If your pack comes with a nut, use the wrench and tighten the bolt clockwise.

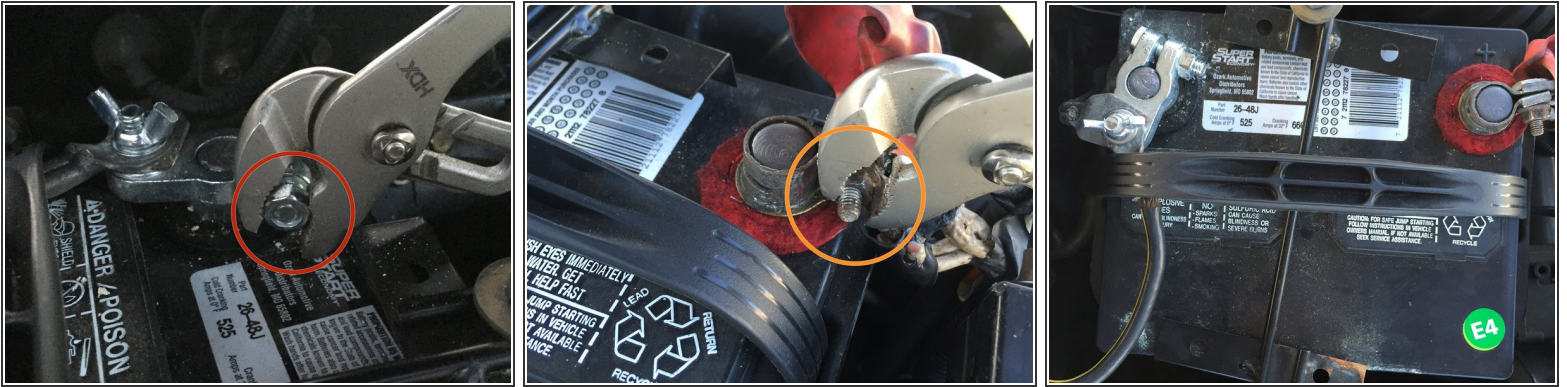
## A close-up photograph showing a person's hand using a metal tool to adjust a red, textured vent cap on a black surface. A barcode sticker is visible on the left, and a warning label is at the bottom.

- Place the negative terminal back onto the negative node.

## A close-up photograph of a metal battery terminal. The terminal is a cast metal piece with a hexagonal nut and a bolt passing through it. The metal shows signs of corrosion and wear. In the background, a black plastic battery cover is visible with the text "DANGER" and "POISON" printed on it. A small white label with black text is also visible, containing the words "Part Number", "Cooling", "Amperes at 70°F", and "Springfield, Mass.".

- Place the negative terminal back onto the negative node.

## Step 12



- On the negative terminal, use the wrench to rotate the side nut clockwise to tighten it.
- Next, perform the same action on the side nut of the positive terminal.
- ⓘ To ensure a secure connection, be sure the nut is snug and that the terminal can't come off easily.