



Electrical System: Jumper Cables



Description: Jumper cables are essentially a set of portable battery cables with spring-loaded clamps on both ends. The clamps provide temporary, yet reliable connections to battery terminals for the transfer of voltage and current.

Purpose: Jumper cables are most commonly used to help start a vehicle with a discharged battery.

Maintenance Tips/Suggestions: When shopping for a set of jumper cables, make sure that the cable diameter is at least 4 gauge and that the insulation is supposed to remain flexible in cold temperatures. Smaller cables do not have sufficient current flow capabilities, which can limit their usefulness and may even cause cable overheating and consequent melting of the cable insulation. The cables should be somewhere between 12 and 16 feet long to ensure a good working length. Quality jumper cables should also have heavy-duty terminal clamps that provide secure connections to both top-post and side-terminal batteries. Jumper cables should be used carefully to prevent damage to the cables and vehicle and to prevent personal injury. When possible, refer to your car's owner's manual for the recommended jump-start procedure and follow it exactly.