# Battery terminal connections – how a $1 wing nut can cost you big money

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Batteries – without some electricity, you can be dead in the water.

Here are some quick facts you need to know, along with how you can cost yourself big, due to a $1 wing nut

* Marine batteries for the most part are deep cycle – designed to run down and be charged back up
* Marine batteries do not last as long as your turck/ car batteries – they have a different design and are meant to do different things.
* Wet cell batteries last 2 – 3 year with proper maintenance (which includes keeping each cell filled with water- #1 way to kill your battery)
* AGM/ Gel cells can last twice as long, but generally cost twice as much – good for applications where it would be hard to maintain or deal with heavy vibration/ pounding. Some outboard motor Mfg. do not recommend using a gel battery for starting applications, as they do not charge properly with that motor.

**Connection to the battery is key!**

If you can get by the corrosion part – which can hurt any electric connection, you still need to worry about how you connect to the battery. Wing Nuts used to be the main stay. Tighten down by hand and your good to go – have any issues simply loosen and pull. **Wing nuts are a thing of the past!**

Most new batteries now come with a standard nut, so you need a socket or wrench to tighten it. Why the change? There were a number of issues happening with today’s modern outboards. Most new outboards have a computer controlling fuel and helping with maximizing the full potential of the motor. With wing nuts, the connection was not tight enough, causing the computer to have to deal with power shortages, and spikes. This caused some damage to some, and owners were blaming the motor when in fact, it was the electric supply to the motor. Do you have any idea what a computer cost to replace in a modern day outboard? Try this at home – turn your home PC on and off a number of times while its running and computing. See if it causes any problems. Then go shop for a new mother board $$$ …. In short NO MORE WING NUTS! …. Use the nut supplied and a lock washer and keep some tools on the boat when it’s time to remove it.

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