2012-2015 Scion iQ - 12V Battery Replacement

2012-2015 Scion iQ | Easy | 15-25 minutes | $300 DIY

TOOLS

10 mm wrench or socket Battery terminal cleaner Gloves and eye protection

PARTS

Type 51 12V battery (correct for 2012-2015 Scion iQ) $300.00

STEPS

1. **Park and power off - Park on level ground, turn the car fully off, and take the key away** so the modules sleep. Confirm the size first: 2012/2015 iQ take Group 51, 2013/2014 take Group 35 - read the code off the old battery's label.
2. **Locate the 12V battery - Find the iQ's small battery in the engine bay. It sits in a tray** with a hold-down clamp. Note the terminal layout - the iQ's cables are short, so the replacement must match the old battery's polarity exactly.
3. **Disconnect the negative cable - On the iQ, loosen the 10 mm nut on the NEGATIVE (-)** terminal and lift the cable off, then tuck it safely aside where it cannot touch metal or the positive post. Never twist the cable off by force.
4. **Disconnect the positive cable - On the iQ, loosen the 10 mm nut on the POSITIVE (+)** terminal and lift the cable off, tucking it aside so it cannot contact metal. Keep the wrench away from the body while you work.
5. **Remove the hold-down - Unbolt the iQ's battery hold-down clamp or strap securing the** battery. Keep the bolt and clamp where you will find them again - replacements for this small hardware are annoying to source.
6. **Lift out the old battery - Lift the old battery straight out, keeping it level. The iQ's** battery is smaller and lighter than most, but lift with your legs anyway. Set it upright for recycling.
7. **Install the new battery - Set the new battery in the tray - Group 51 for 2012/2015, Group** 35 for 2013/2014 - and secure the hold-down clamp firmly. Clean the terminals with a wire brush if corroded. Verify the polarity matches before connecting anything.
8. **Reconnect the cables - Attach the POSITIVE (+) cable first and tighten its nut, then the** NEGATIVE (-) cable - both terminals snug with no wiggle. Make sure the hold-down is tight: a loose battery bouncing in the tray will fail early.
9. **Verify operation - Start the iQ and confirm no warning lights; check headlights, locks,** and accessories. Radio presets and clock will have reset. The small battery drains faster than average when parked - use a maintainer if the car sits for weeks.

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