

Affordable Quick Fix to protect positive battery terminal

If you have a Ford 8N tractor, and it came to you without any insulation around positive battery cable's terminal, you've got an accident just waiting to happen, since toolbox full of metal tools is sitting right above battery's terminals.

Best solution is to purchase aftermarket battery hold down/cover doors, which completely protects both positive and negative battery terminals from making contact with falling/shifting metal tools, which could short out battery terminals, causing a fire right next to tractor's gas tank(!).



These battery covers designed for Ford 8N tractor are the ideal solution, just not the most affordably priced solution available. Shopping around helps; aftermarket costs start around \$40 +S&H and goes up from there.

A more cost-effective & viable option to use in addition to 8N battery cover, can quickly and cheaply be made out of an old pill bottle.

1. Find bottle of size and shape you find attractive as a battery terminal cover. I chose a small aspirin bottle, because it fit snugly and looked good on positive battery terminal. Getting paper label off the bottle, I filled bottle with water and nuked in microwave until label got hot and loose enough to remove.
2. Use hacksaw and bench vise if you have one, to hold bottle for ease of sawing. Cut off portion of bottle's top where lid screws on. What remains of the bottle's neck is part that will wrap around battery cable and holds "terminal protector" in position.

3. Cutting downwards from neck of bottle to bottle's base, remove about one-third diameter of bottle. This opening is where protector will slip down over battery terminal.



4. You may have to use heat gun (or other heat source) to soften neck of bottle enough to form it into a smaller size, grasping battery cable for secure fitment.



5. A bit of red paint (not shown) for cosmetics, with permanent marker "+" and project is completed.

Positive battery terminal is covered/protected, against tool from toolbox/surroundings making contact against positive battery terminal and shorting battery to ground. Remedy will potentially mitigate hazard, until such time an 8N battery cover can be installed.

Battery cover Ford engineers designed for this job is the best way to go, however, my quick, cheap & simple DIY battery terminal cover will provide a measure of security while saving up for "8n-correct" battery cover.

Article brought to you compliments Murphy's Law of "Sue City" Iowa, "Because if something can possibly fail, it will happen at the worst possible time and way imaginable." ;-)