



TECHNICAL NOTE

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Bureau of Land Management U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

AUTOMOTIVE COOLING SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

With the approach of summer, cooling system maintenance should be performed. To prepare the system for hot weather operations, we should:

1. Check the entire system for leaks.
2. Inspect the condition of all hoses and replace the hoses and hose clamps where necessary.
3. Check the operation of the thermostat.
4. Clean cooling system.
5. Check the tension and condition of the generator or alternator, water pump, and fan belt--adjust or replace if necessary.
6. Remove all bugs or dirt from the radiator core using air or water under pressure.
7. Clean the radiator guard and outside of core.

CLEANING THE COOLING SYSTEM

As is true with almost anything, "If it's worth doing, it's worth doing right." Here is the recommended procedure for cleaning the cooling system properly.

1. Obtain a heavy duty engine and radiator cleaner. (Most major oil companies have their own brand.) Follow instructions for using.
2. Fill cooling system with the mixture according to instructions and operate engine for period of time recommended for the brand of cleaner used.
3. Drain engine.
4. Repeat Steps 1 through 3.
5. Fill system with clean water.
6. Run engine for five minutes.
7. Drain engine.
8. Service water filter and inhibitor element or add a corrosion inhibitor compound of good quality.
9. Refill system with coolant.

The cooling system is a vital part of any piece of equipment. Taking proper care of it is important to any good preventive maintenance program.

It's natural to think of cooling system when preparing for cold weather operation, but servicing the cooling system is just as important in the spring. Make sure it's done to your equipment for longer equipment life and lower equipment costs.

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